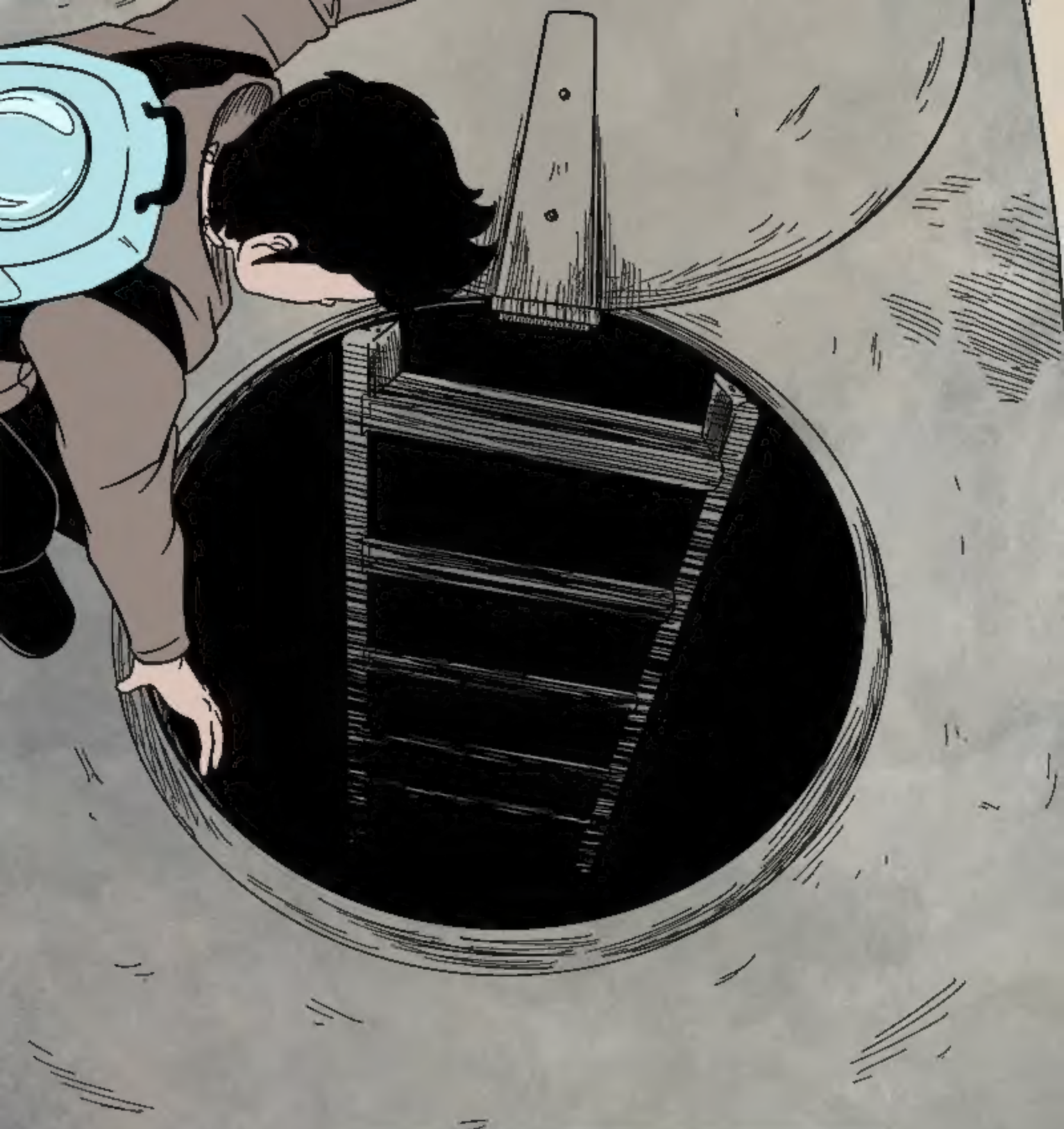
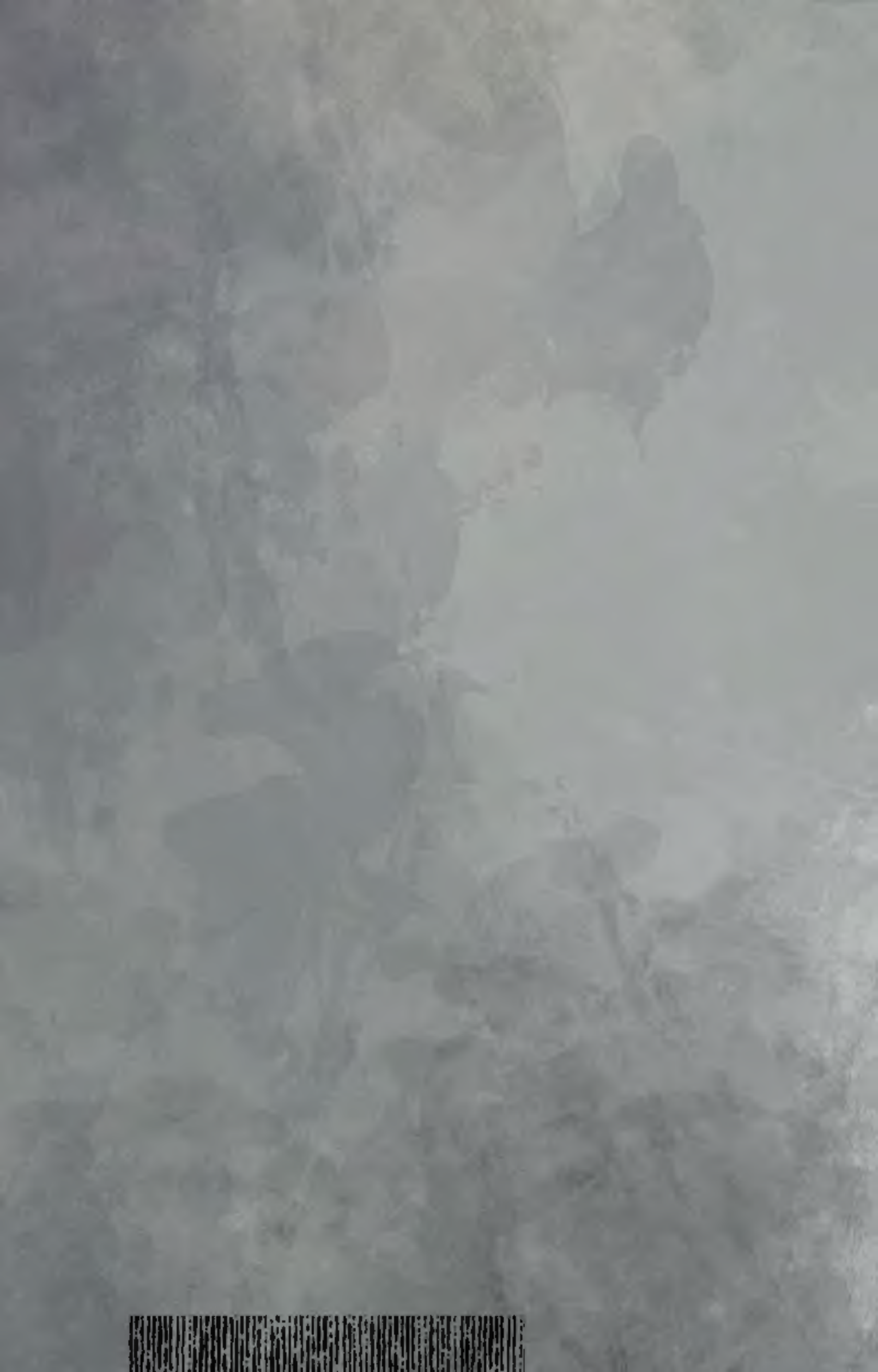
WHAT ELSE COULD WE DO?



THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY WE WOULD GET ANSWERS.



AT LEAST THE LADDER WAS STURDY THIS TIME...

ANSWER

three

WE'D BEEN BURNED SO MANY TIMES BEFORE...

EVERY NEW LEAD TURNED INTO A DEAD END...

I TRIED NOT TO GET
MY HOPES UP.

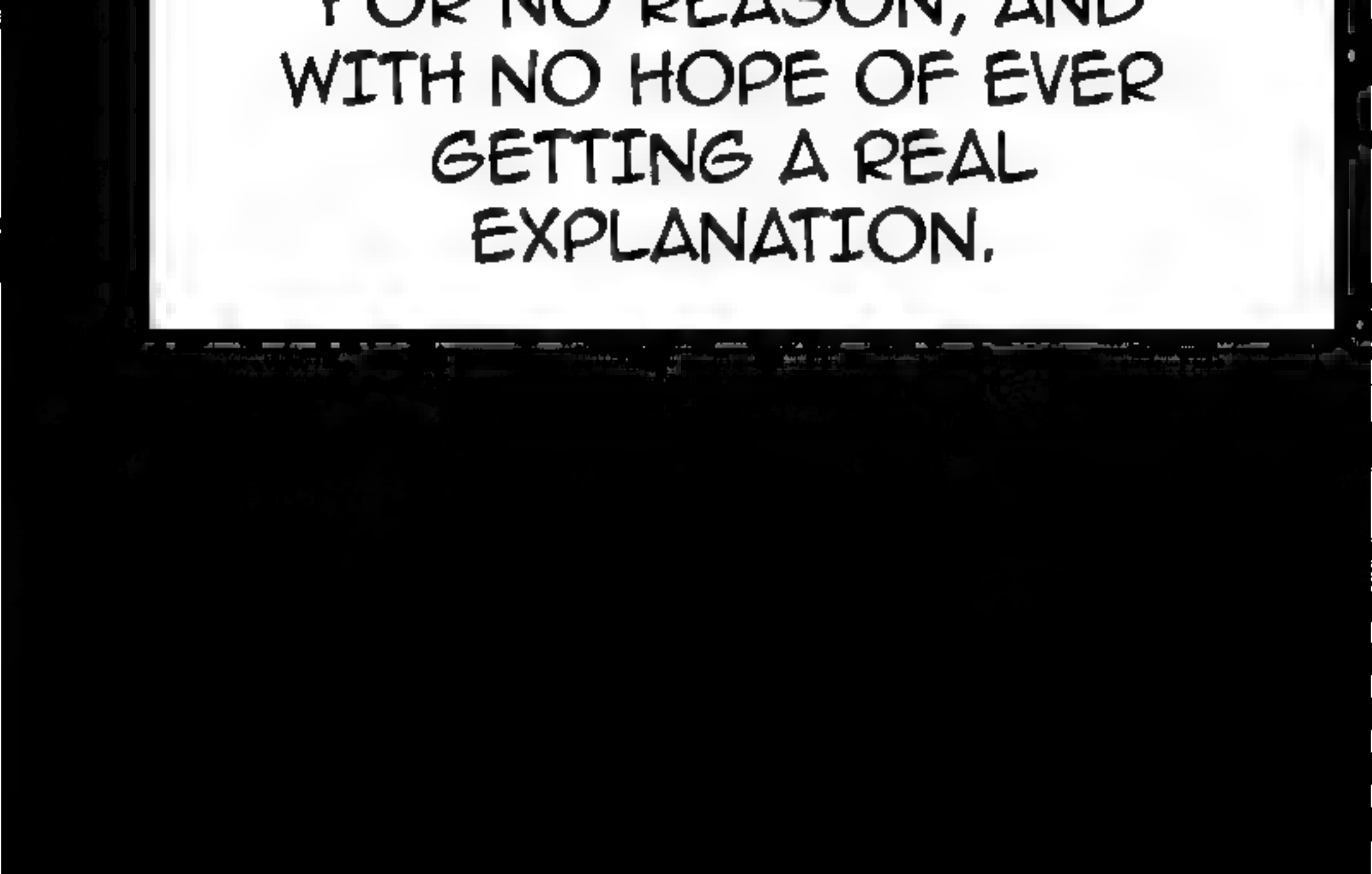
JUST FOCUSED ON NOT BEING AFRAID TO GO DOWN ANOTHER

LADDER, INTO THE DARK.

I'D BEEN WONDERING FOR SOME TIME IF THERE *WERE* ANY ANSWERS TO BE HAD...

...OR IF ALL OF THIS WAS JUST A PUNISHMENT.

FOR NO REASON. AND


FOR NO REASON, AND
WITH NO HOPE OF EVER
GETTING A REAL
EXPLANATION.

AT WHAT POINT DO YOU GROW SO TIRED THAT YOU STOP ASKING *WHY*...

AND JUST ASK FOR IT TO *STOP*?

END OF THE LINE.
HANG ON, LET ME GET MY FLASHLIGHT.

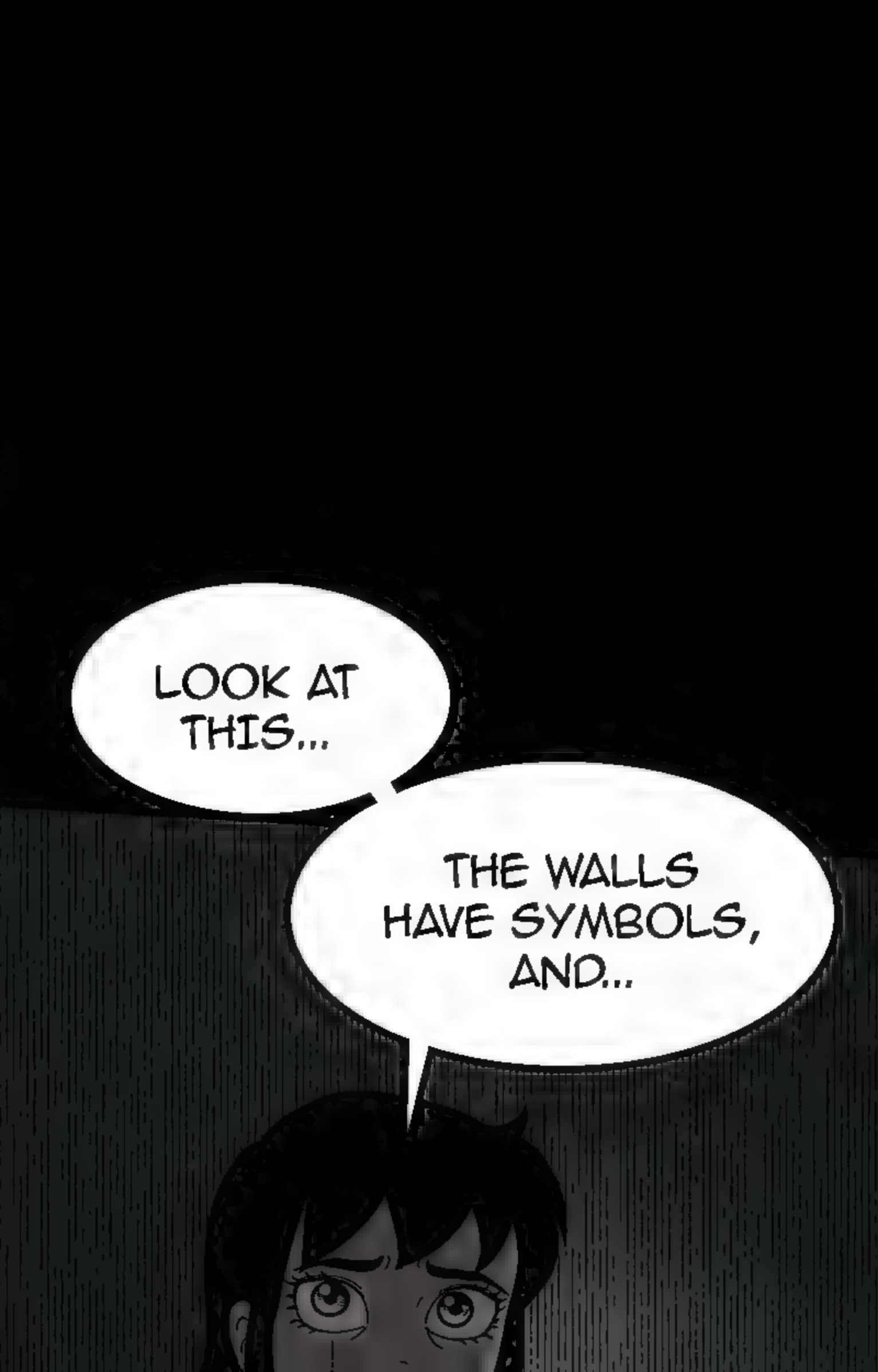
CLICK

WOAH...
WHAT IS ALL THIS...

DUNNO...

IT'S LIKE A SECRET STUDY...

DON'T TAKE ANYTHING 'TIL WE CHECK IT ALL OUT, OKAY?


LOOK AT THIS...
THE WALLS HAVE SYMBOLS, AND...

JUST...
THEY'RE COVERED ALL AROUND THE ROOM IN THESE SHAPES...

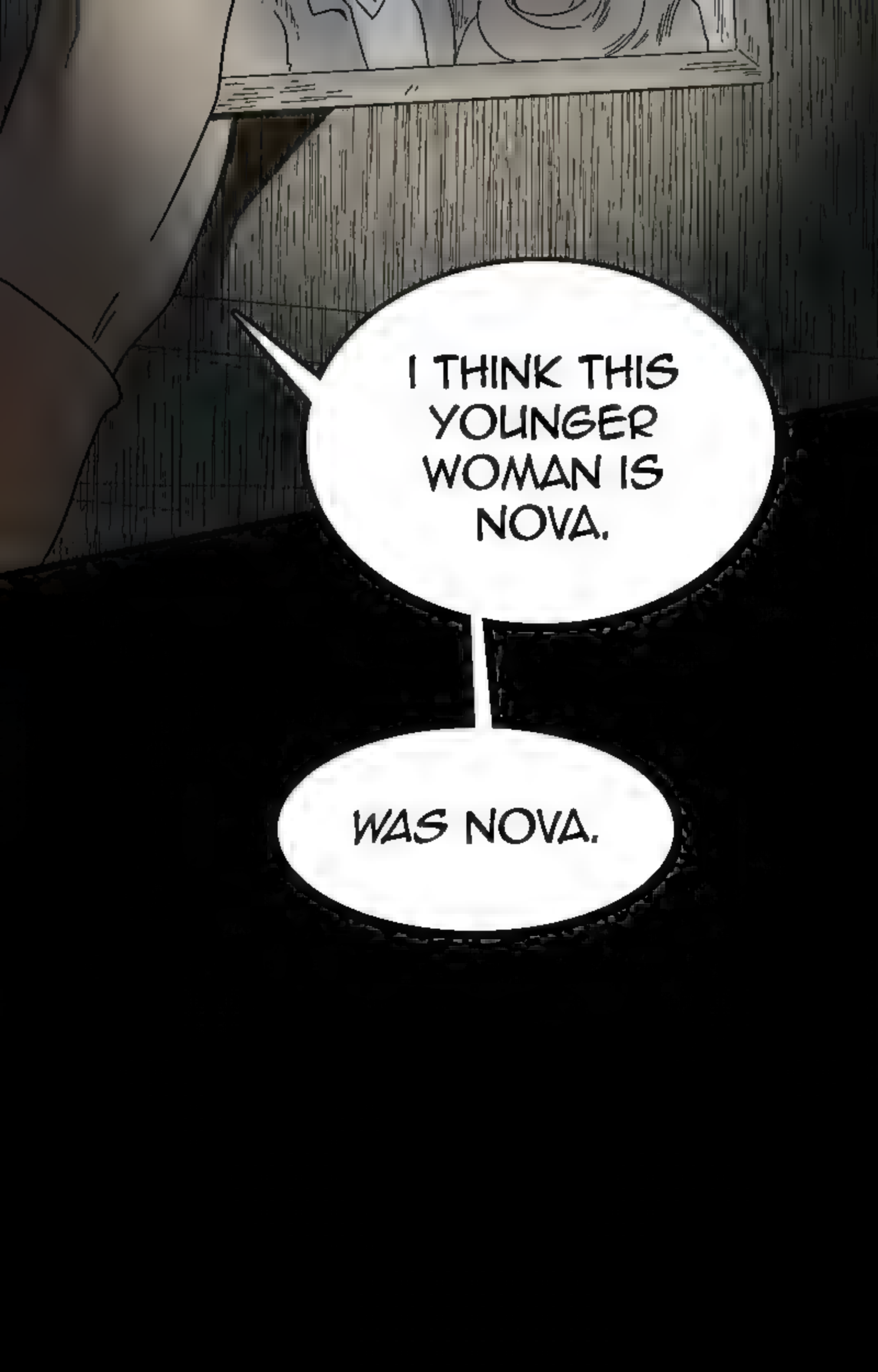
AND...

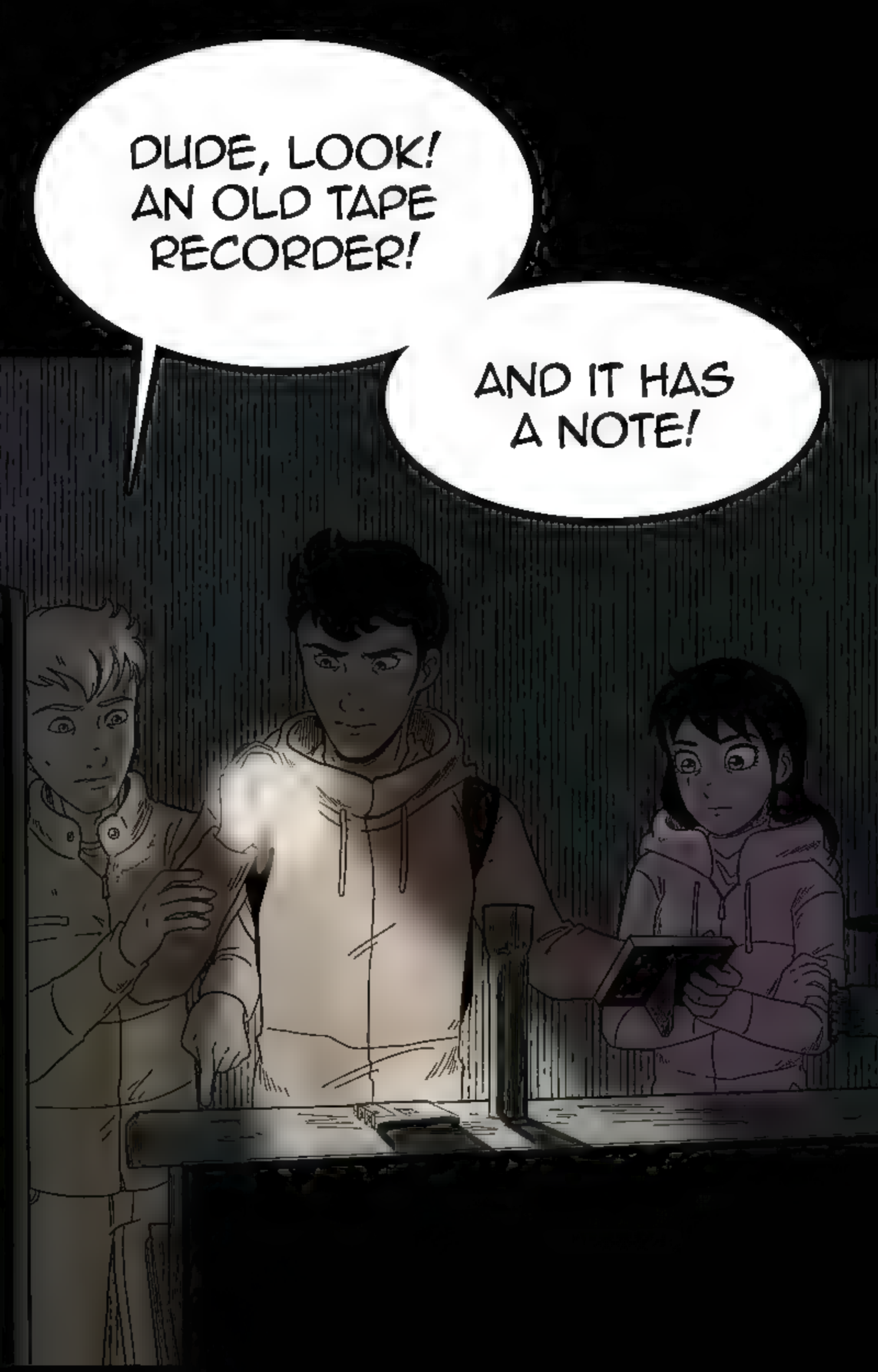
RED STRING?
THIS IS TOO CREEPY.

HMMM.
GUYS, LOOK.

I THINK I FOUND THE OWNER.

I THINK...


I THINK THIS YOUNGER WOMAN IS NOVA.
WAS NOVA.

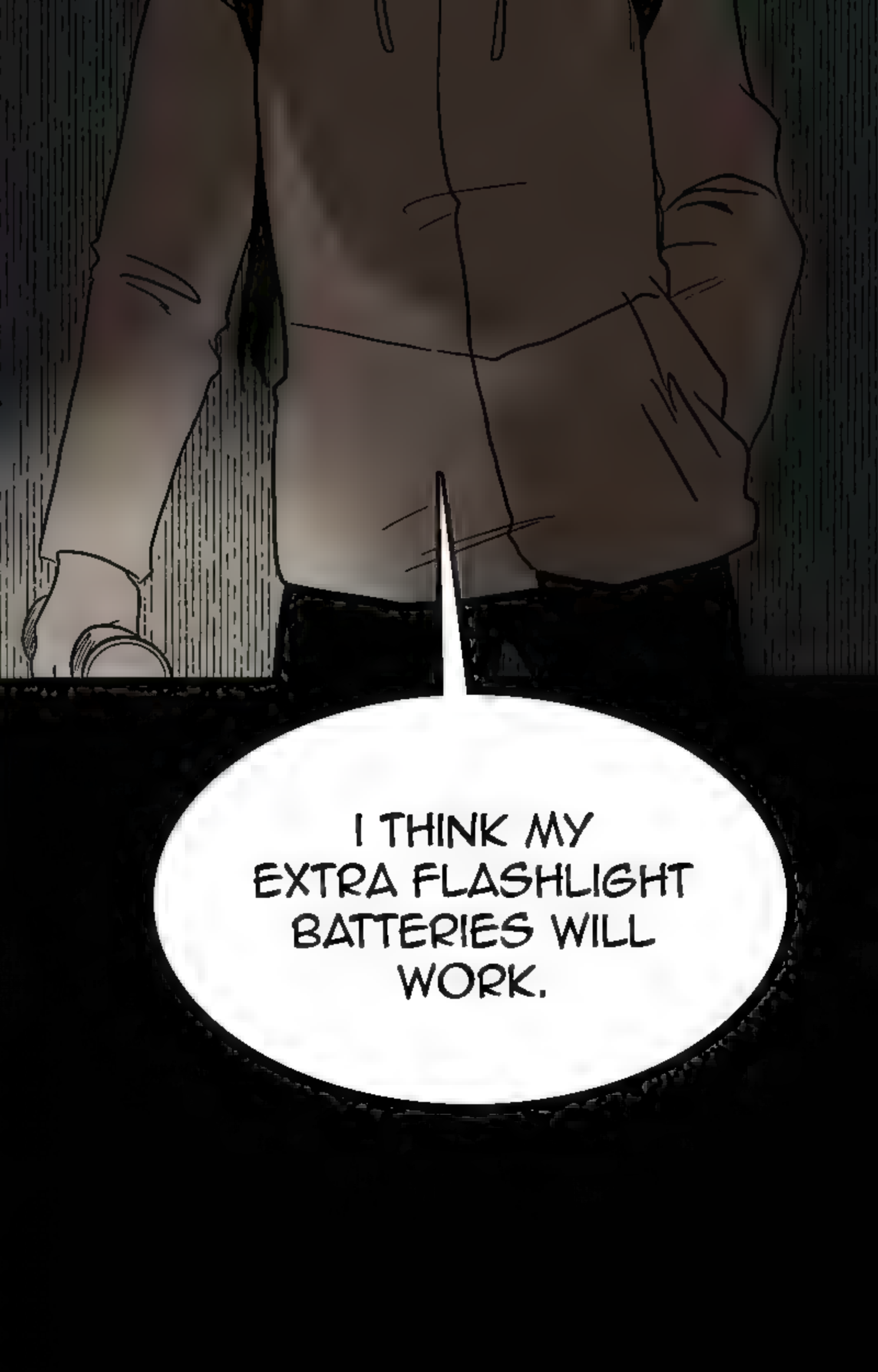

DUDE, LOOK! AN OLD TAPE RECORDER!
AND IT HAS A NOTE!

"PLAY ME."
SOUNDS
IMPORTANT.
Play Me

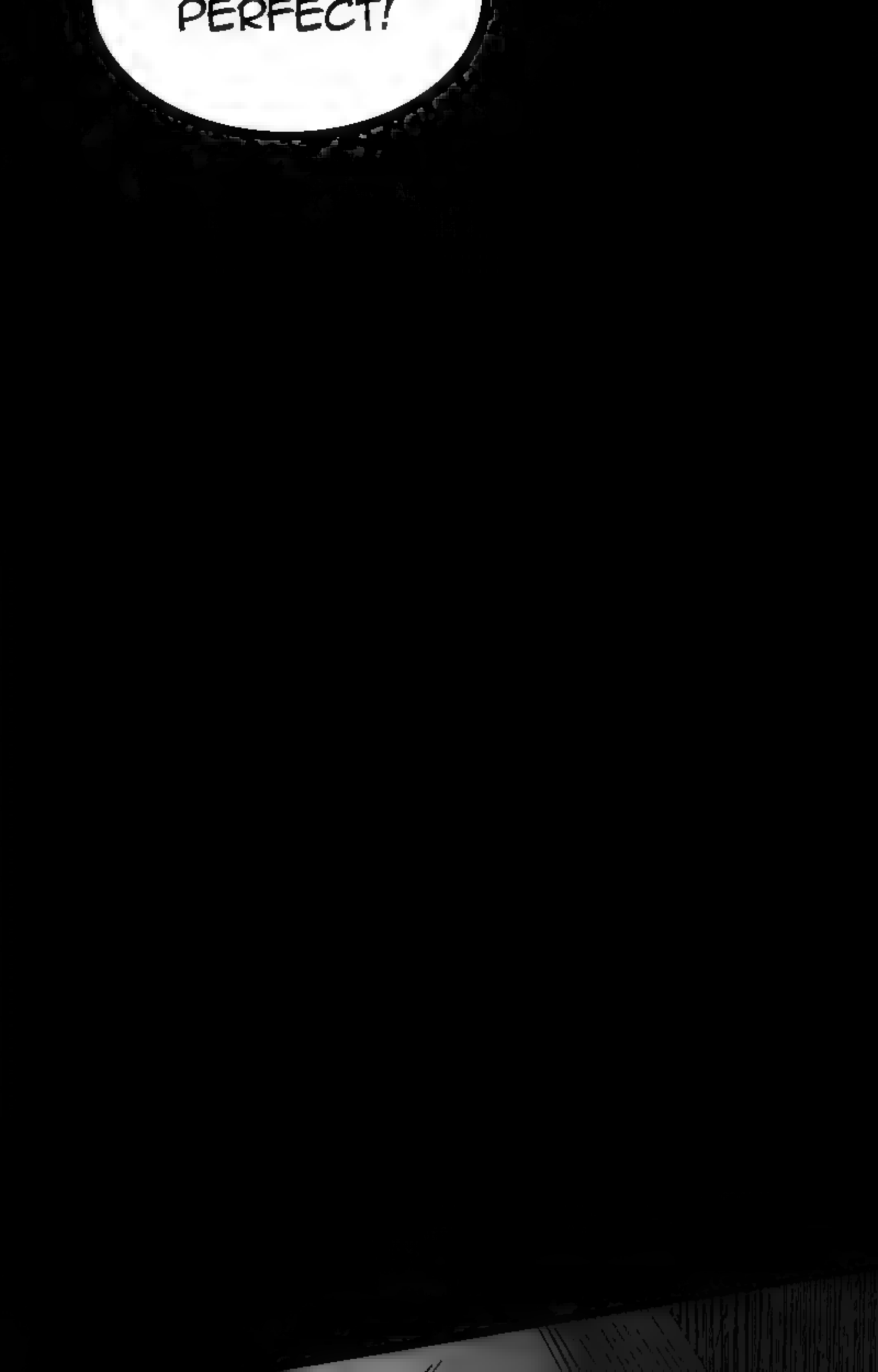
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
AH...

DAMMIT.
CLICK
IT'S TOO OLD. THE BATTERIES ARE DEAD.

I GOTCHA, BRO.

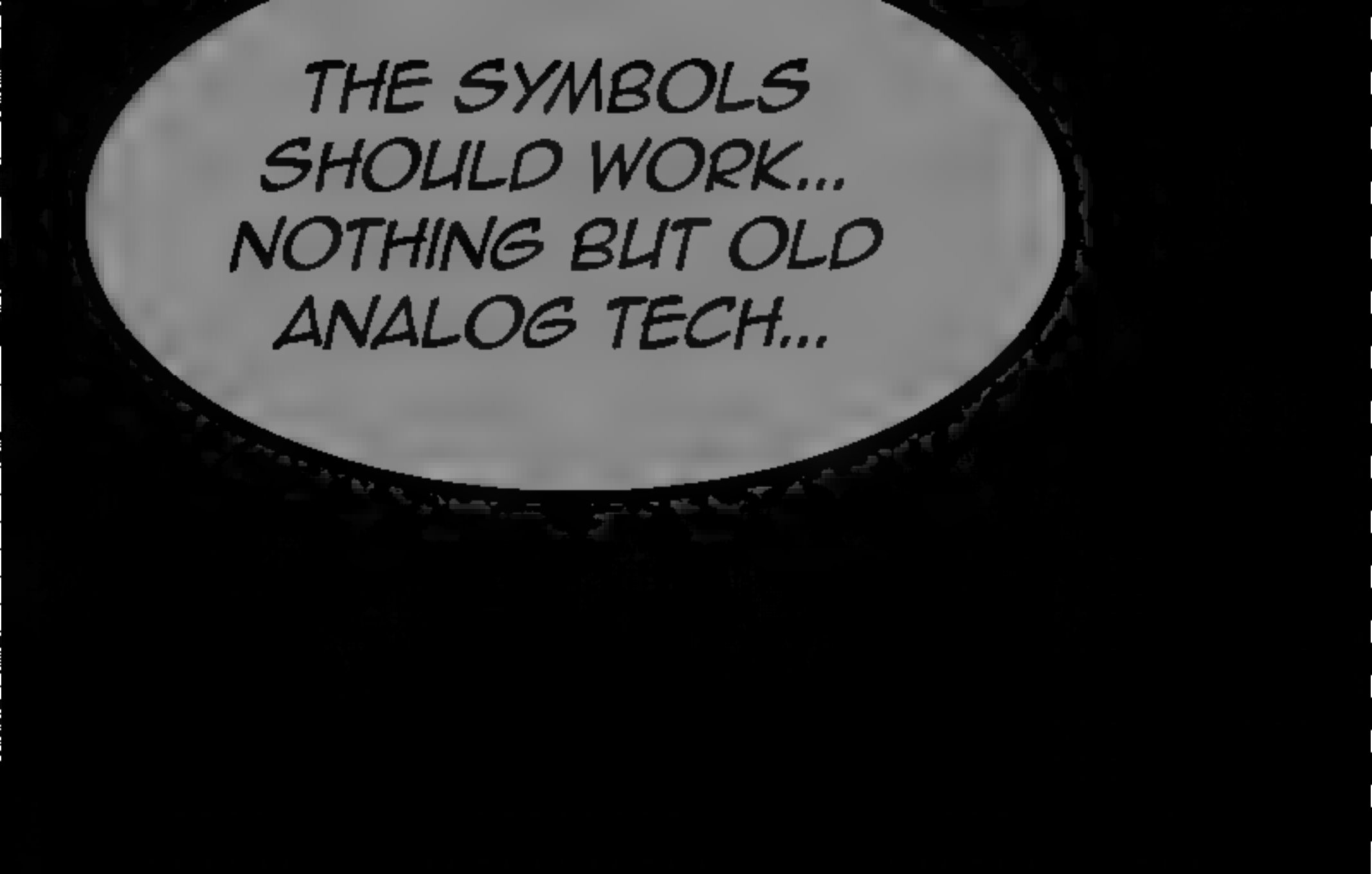

I THINK MY EXTRA FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES WILL WORK.

CLACK
HA,


PERFECT!

click

Vmmmmm...
I DON'T THINK THEY CAN HEAR ME DOWN HERE...

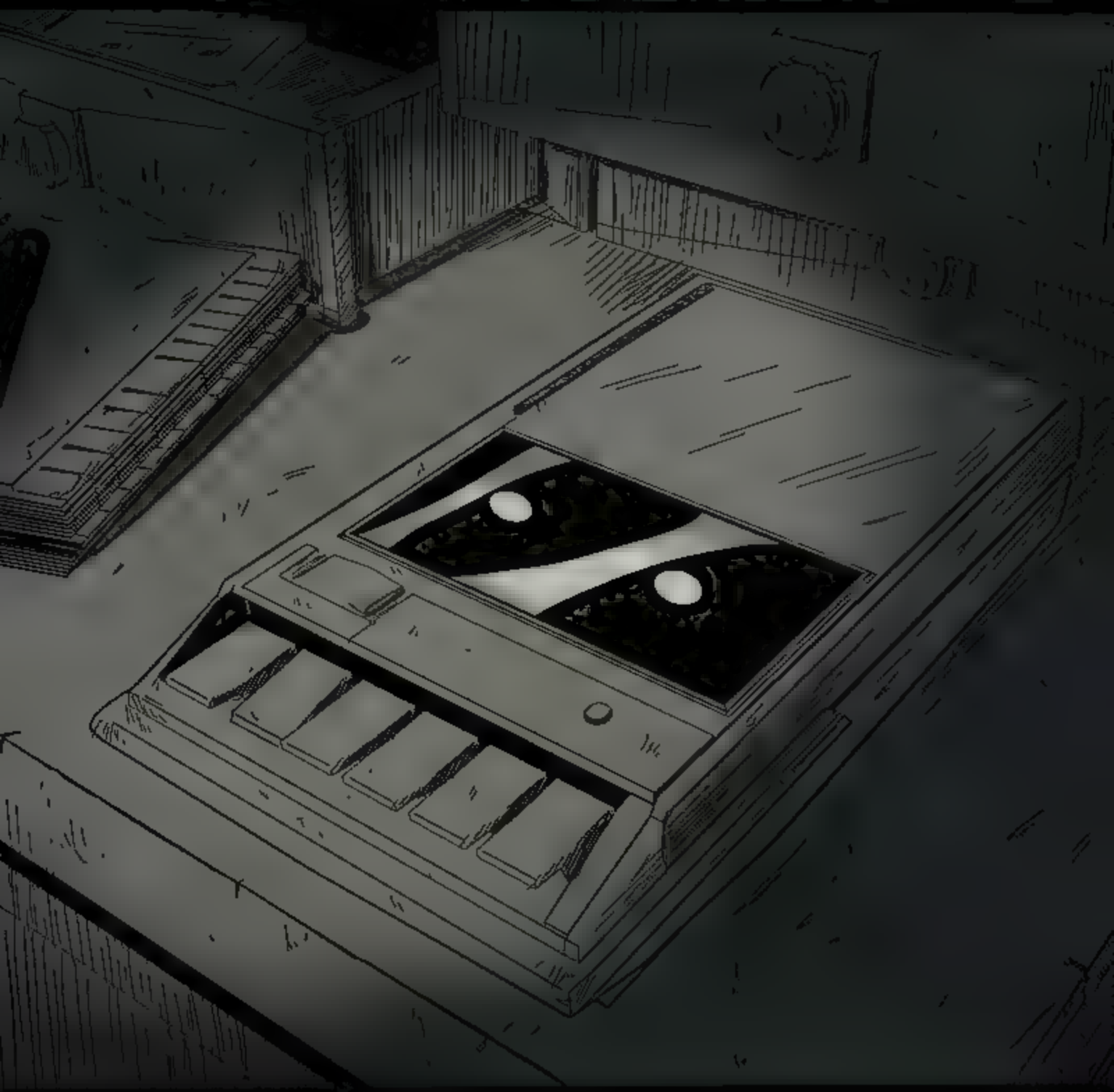

THE SYMBOLS SHOULD WORK... NOTHING BUT OLD ANALOG TECH...

...AND I'VE GOT DAMN NEAR EVERYTHING COVERED IN RED STRING...

WHY THEY HATE IT SO MUCH, I DON'T KNOW. BUT THERE IT IS.

MY NAME IS LILLIAN NANCY OVARTON.

NAN TO, WELL...MOST EVERYONE.
I CAME TO STAGTOWN AGES AGO...BUT EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO LEAVE.



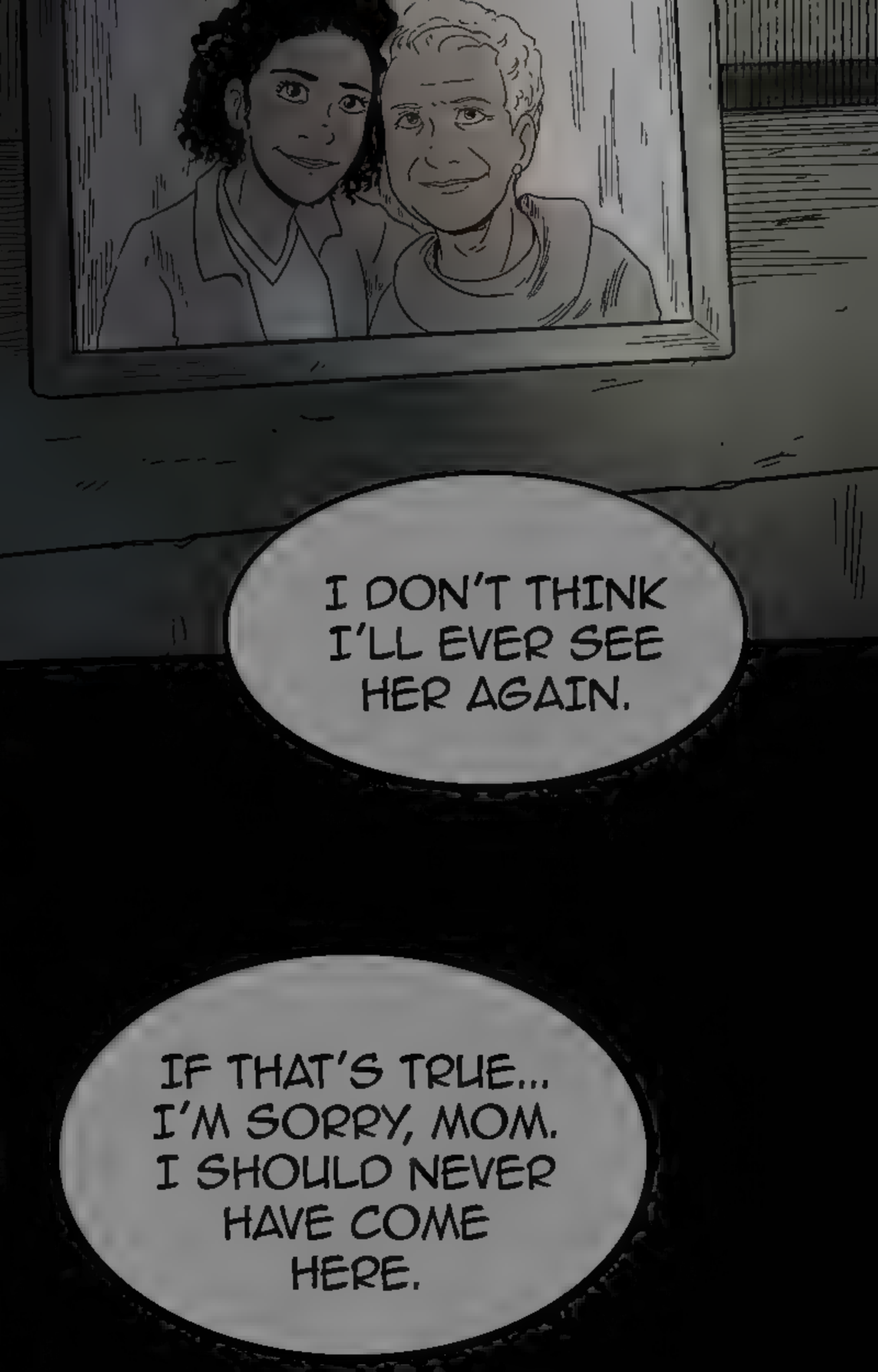
I'VE STRUGGLED AGAINST SOME... SOMETHING **BIG**, IMPOSSIBLE, FOR YEARS NOW.

BUT AT THIS POINT, I MAY HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT I'M NOT GETTING OUT.
MAYBE IT'S UP TO SOMEONE ELSE, WHO WILL COME AFTER ME.

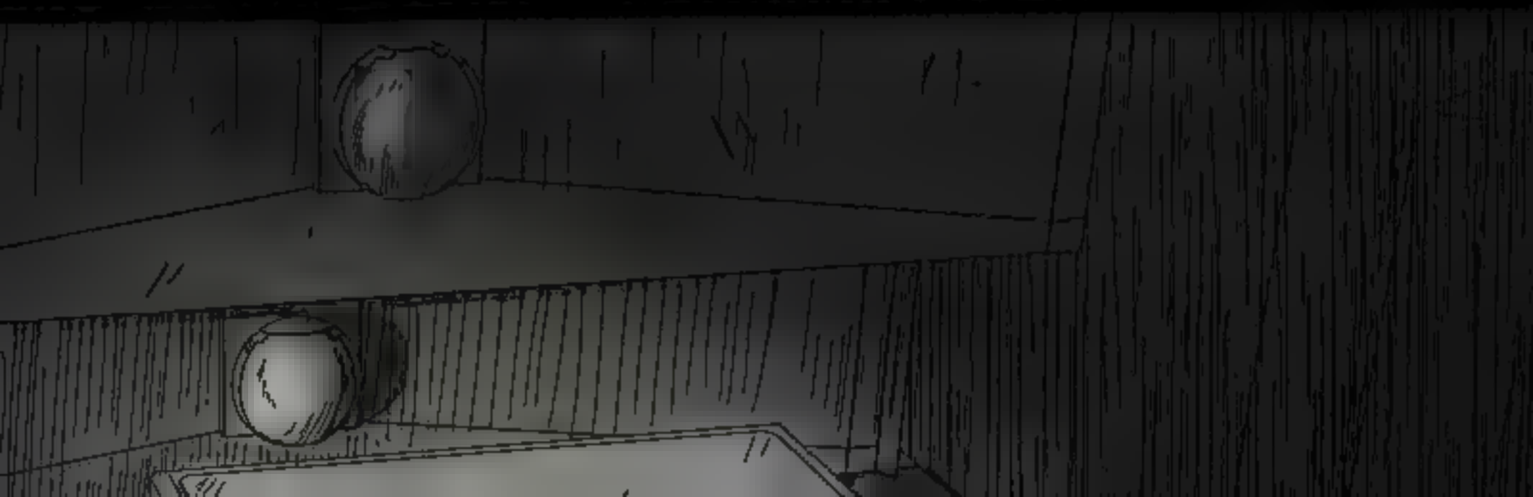
I DON'T KNOW.

I DO-
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ANYMORE.

I JUST...
I WANTED TO SEE MOM AGAIN. I KEPT TELLING HER I WOULD VISIT.


I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN.
IF THAT'S TRUE... I'M SORRY, MOM. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME HERE.

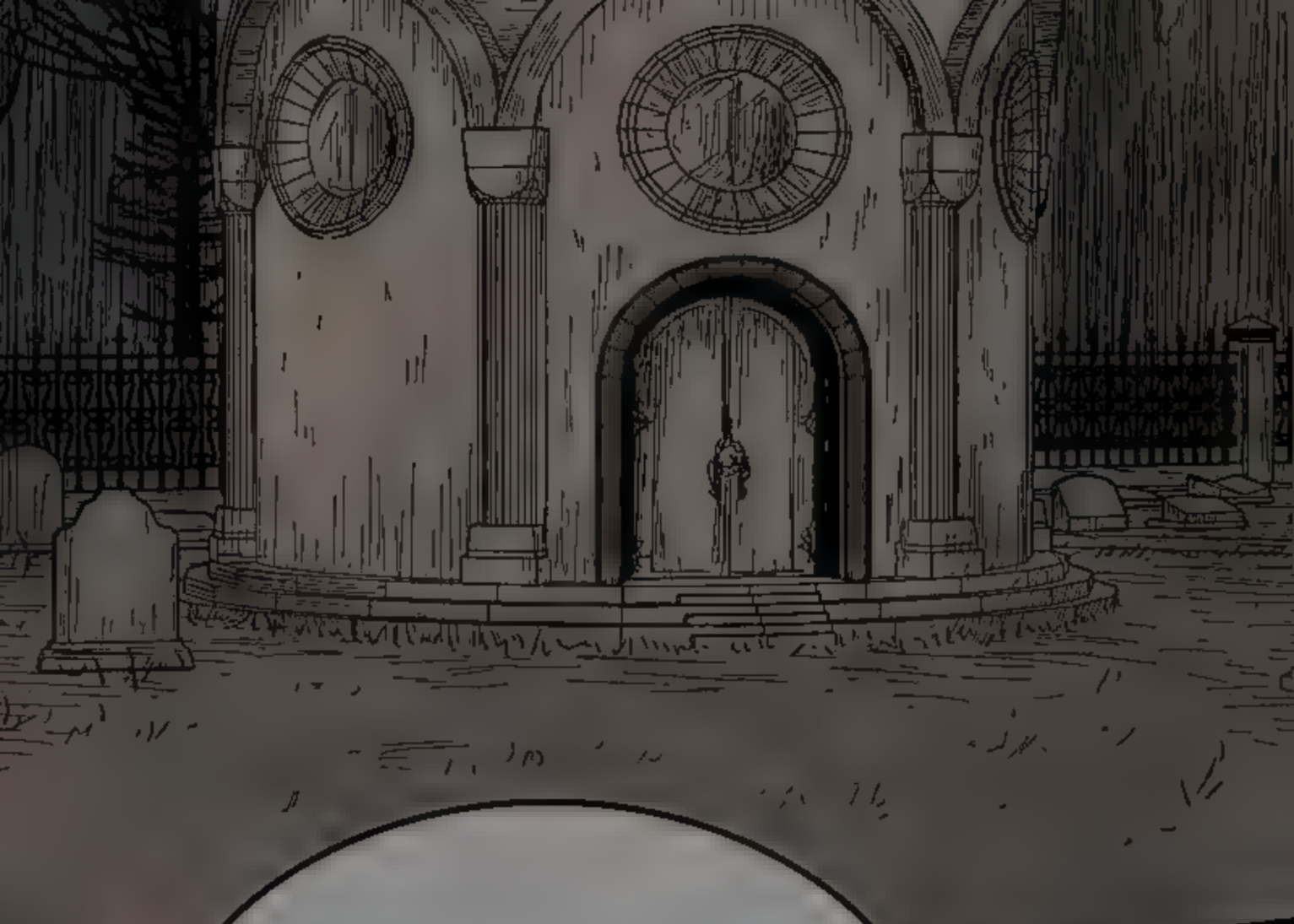
THEY'RE GETTING GOOD AT WATCHING ME. LISTENING TO EVERYTHING.



I HAD TO FIND SOMEWHERE THAT THEY'D BE BLIND TO...A HIDDEN PLACE.

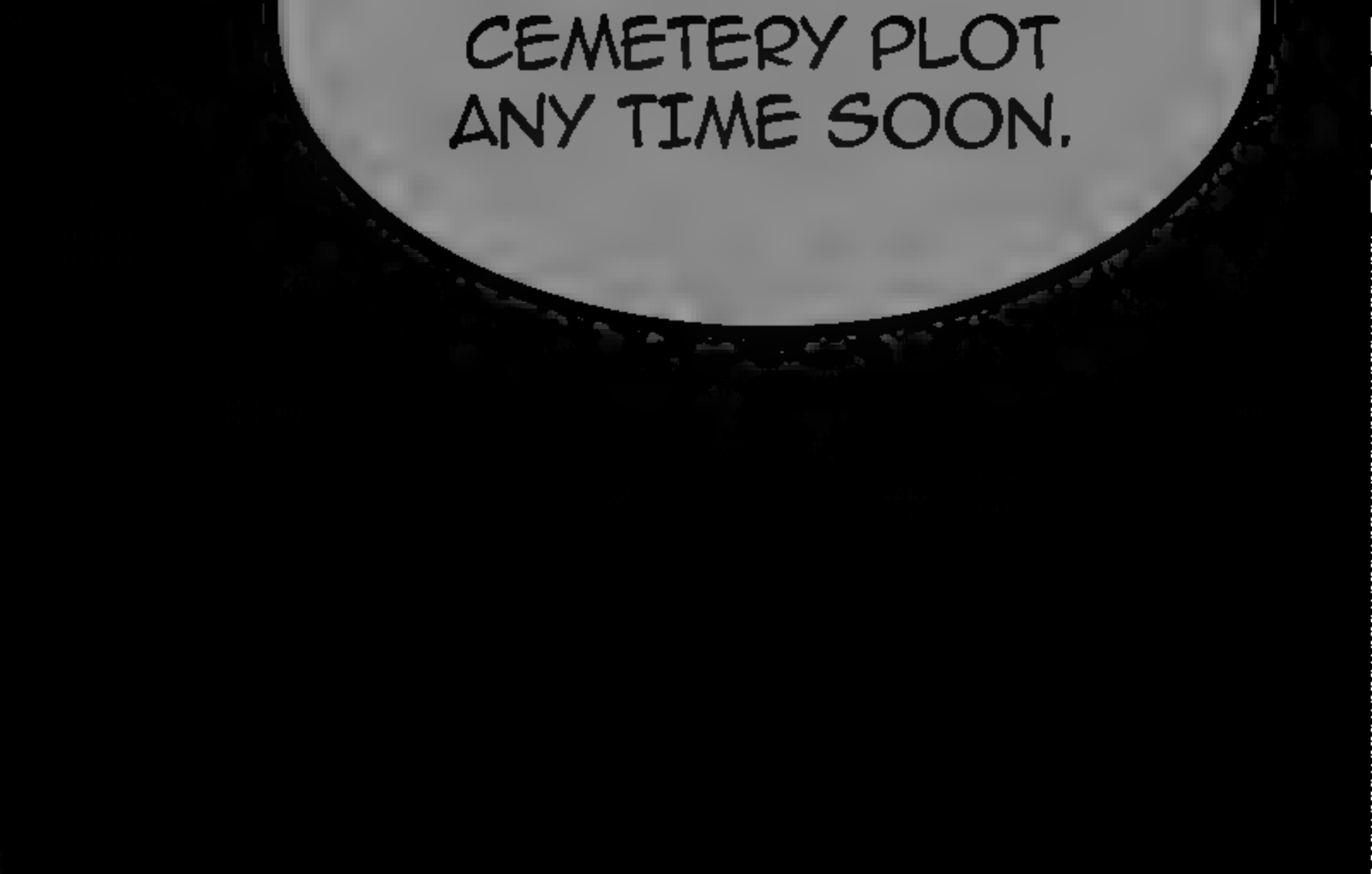
I HAD THIS MAUSOLEUM BUILT, IN PLAIN VIEW OF EVERYONE.

THE BEST PLACE TO HIDE IS OFTEN RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN.

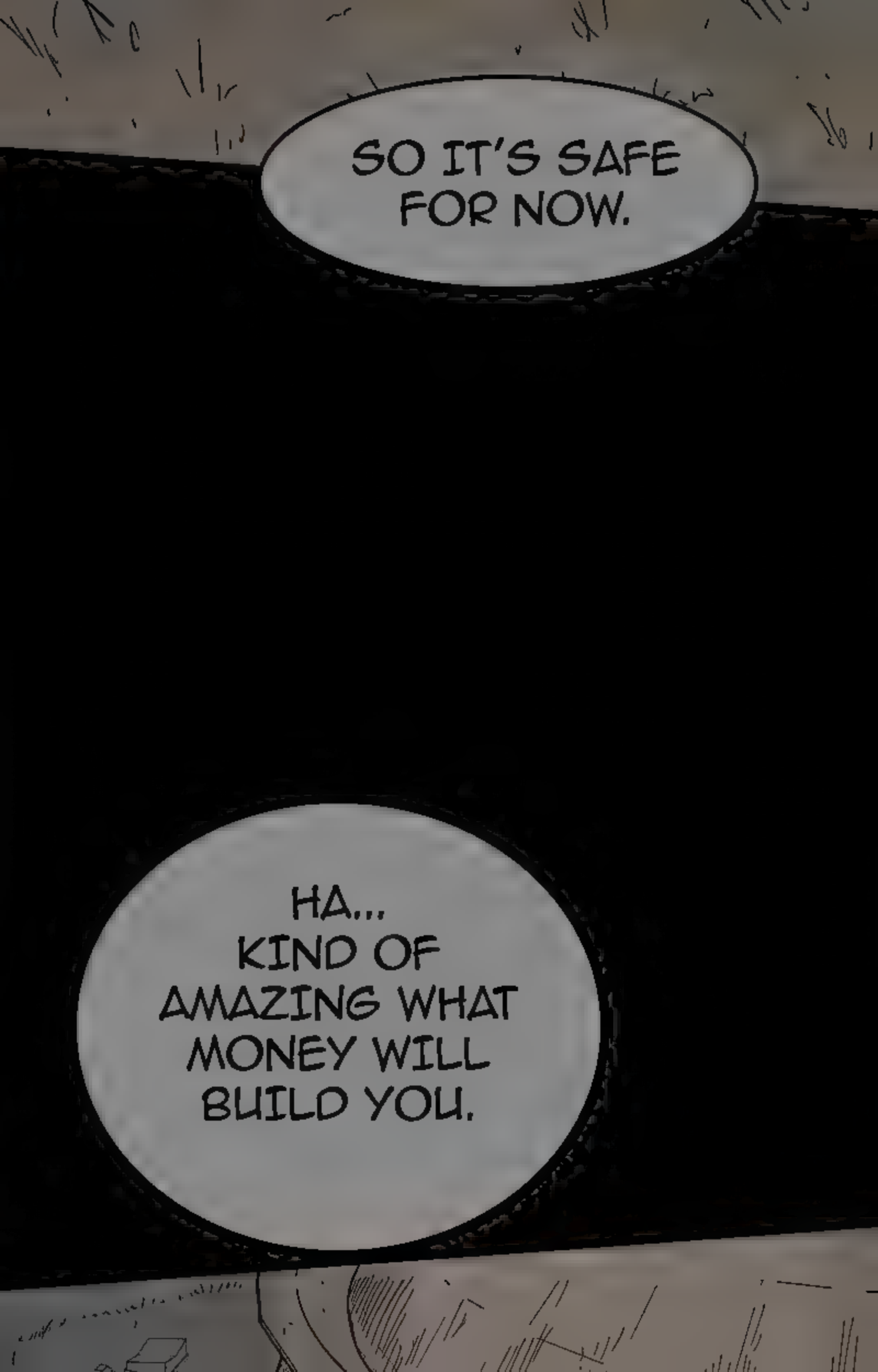


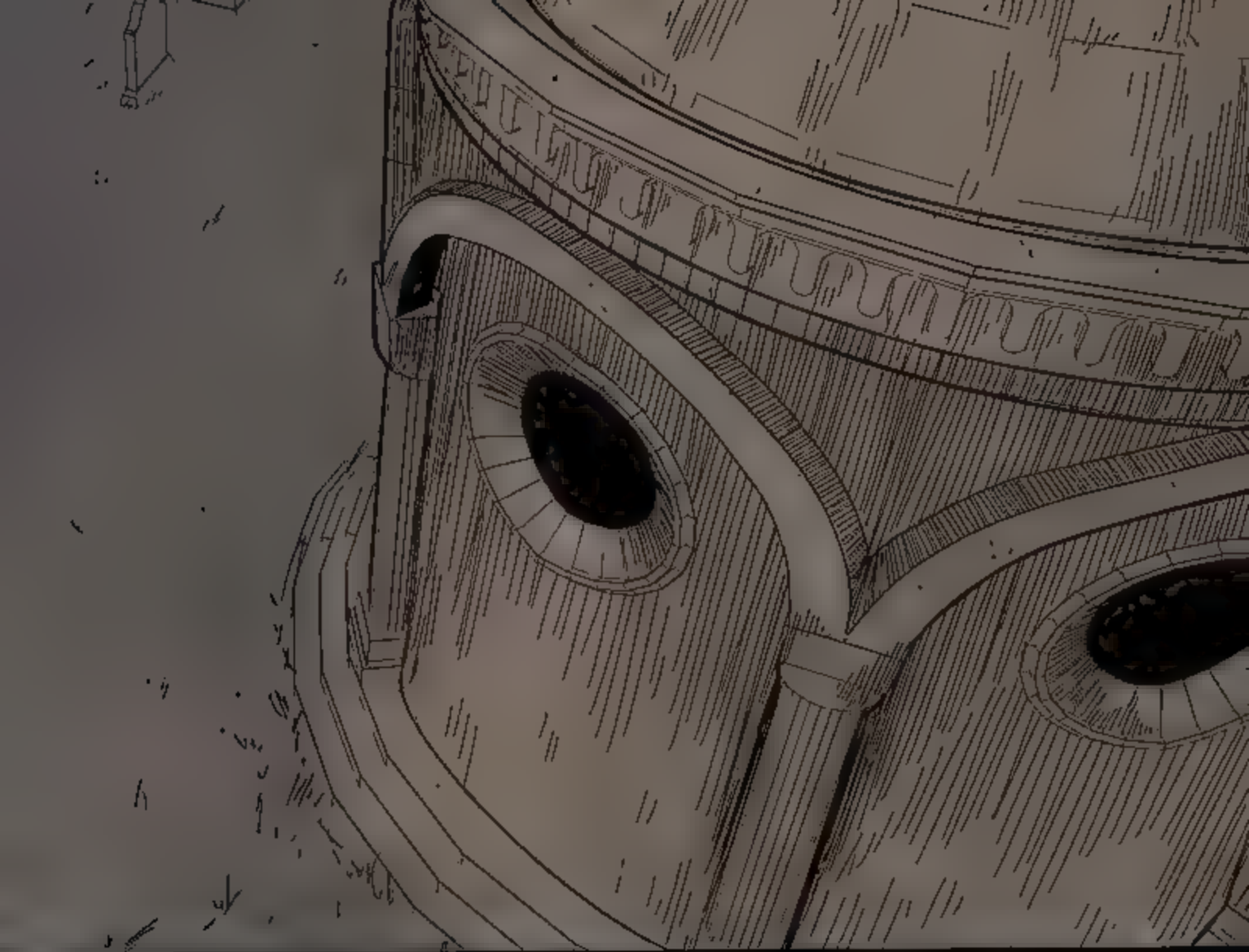
NO ONE QUESTIONED CONSTRUCTION OF A FAMILY CRYPT.

AND NO ONE WILL BE DIGGING UP A


CEMETERY PLOT
ANY TIME SOON.

IT'S REALLY THE ONLY BIT OF REAL ESTATE THAT *CAN'T* BE SOLD OFF IF I JUST... DISAPPEAR.


SO IT'S SAFE FOR NOW.
HA... KIND OF AMAZING WHAT MONEY WILL BUILD YOU.

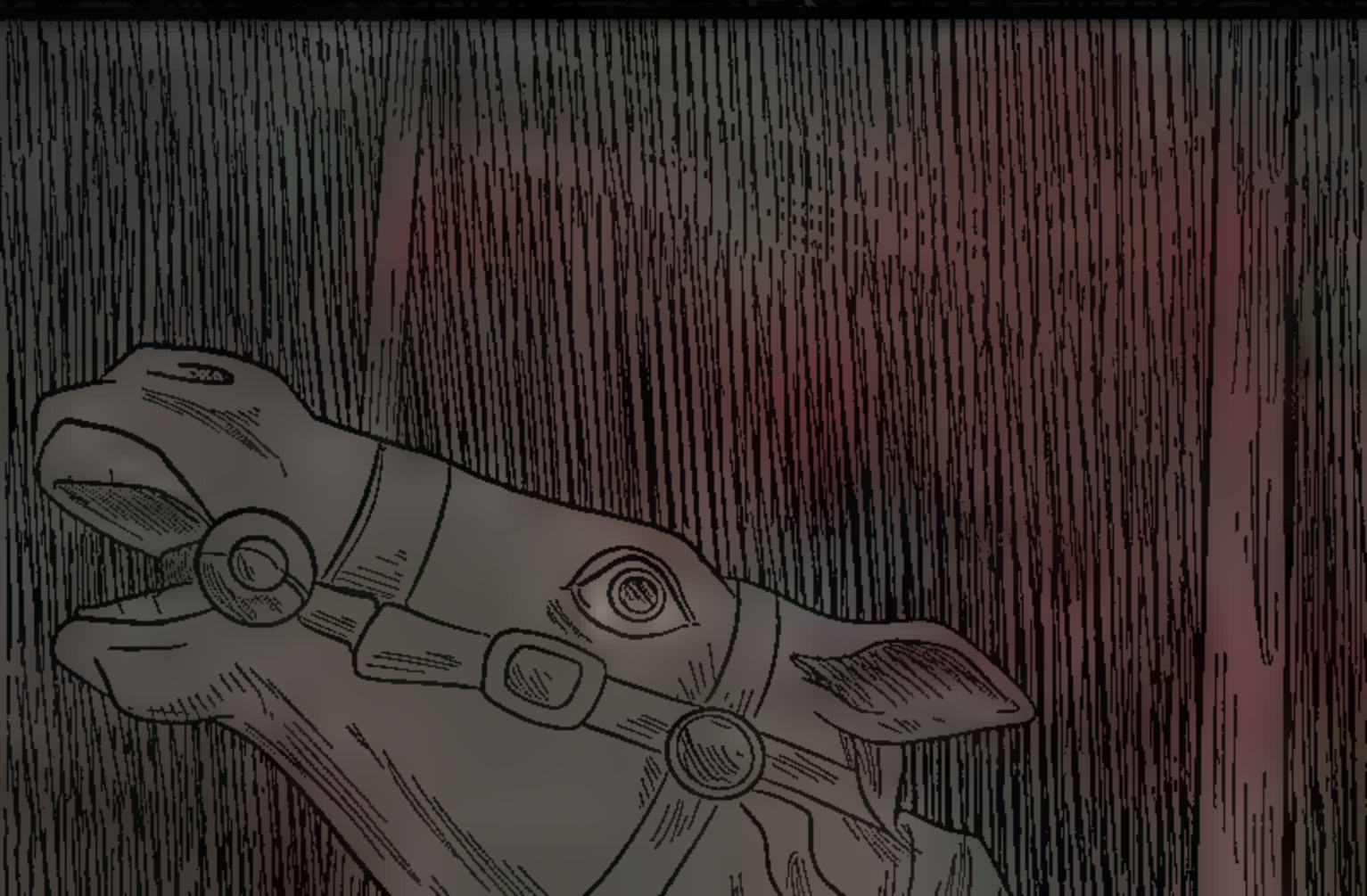


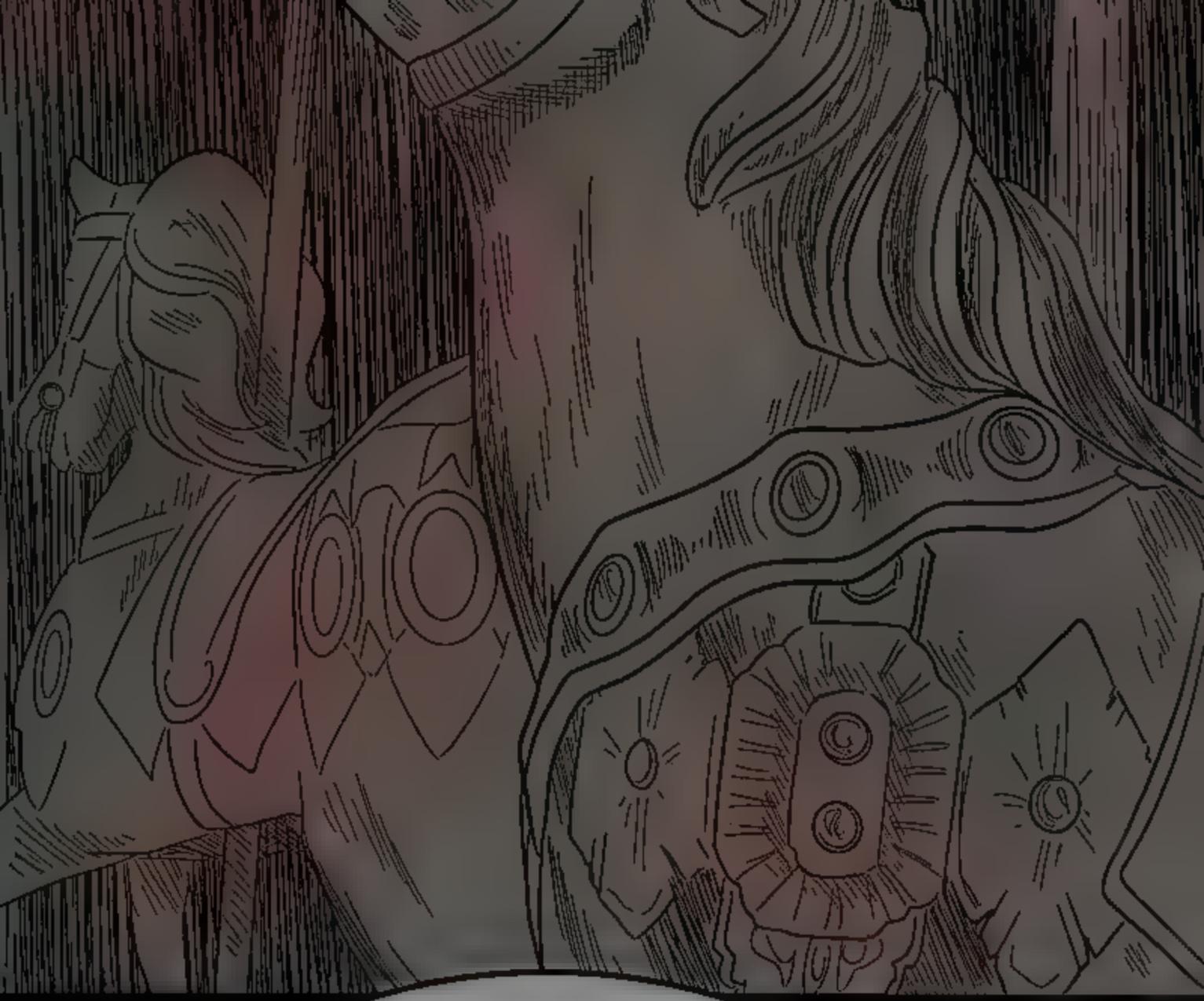
THE LOCKS I DID MYSELF, IN SECRET.

ANYWAY, IF YOU'RE HERE, YOU KNOW

ABOUT *IT.*

THAT...
CAROUSEL.



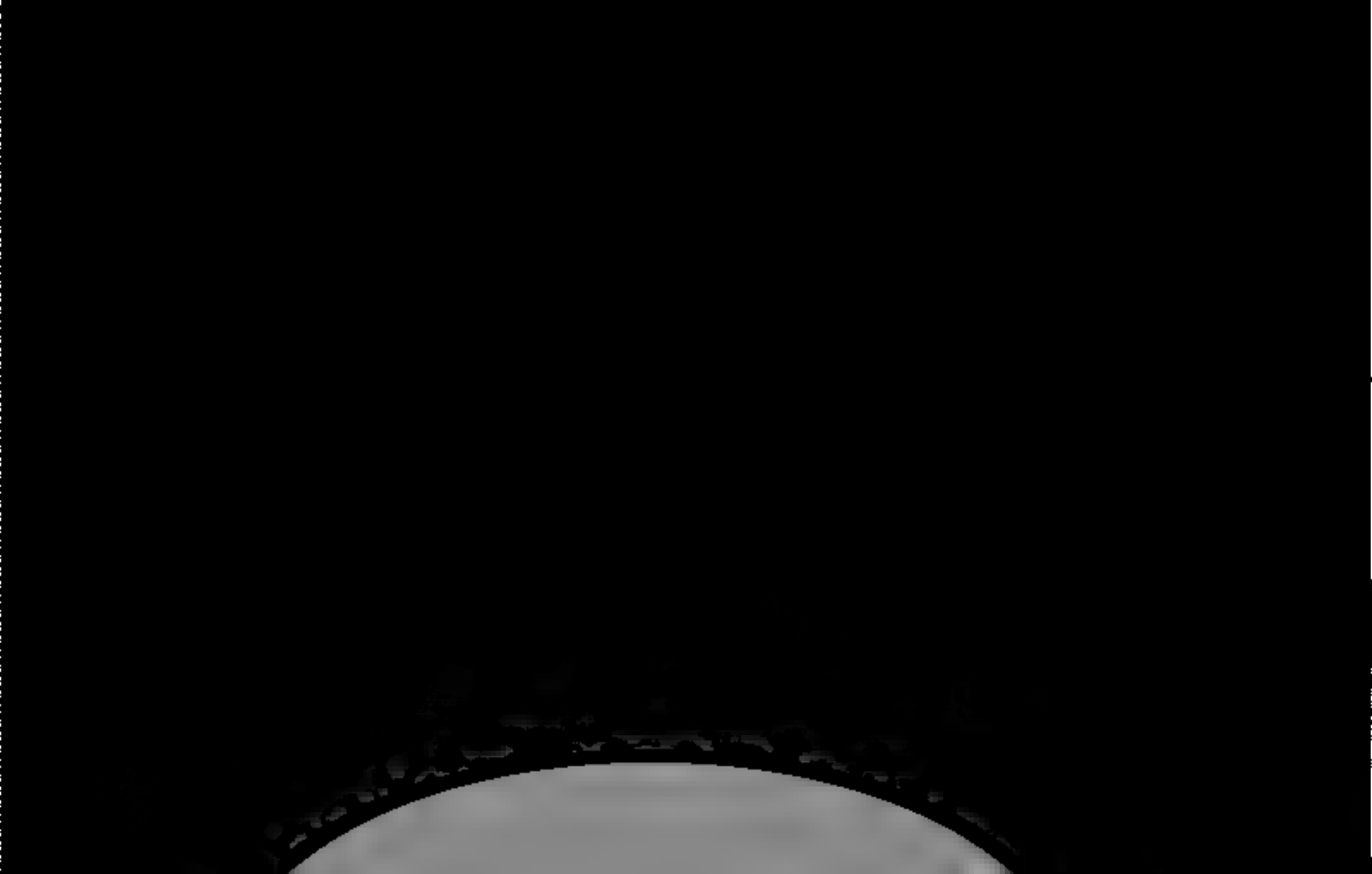


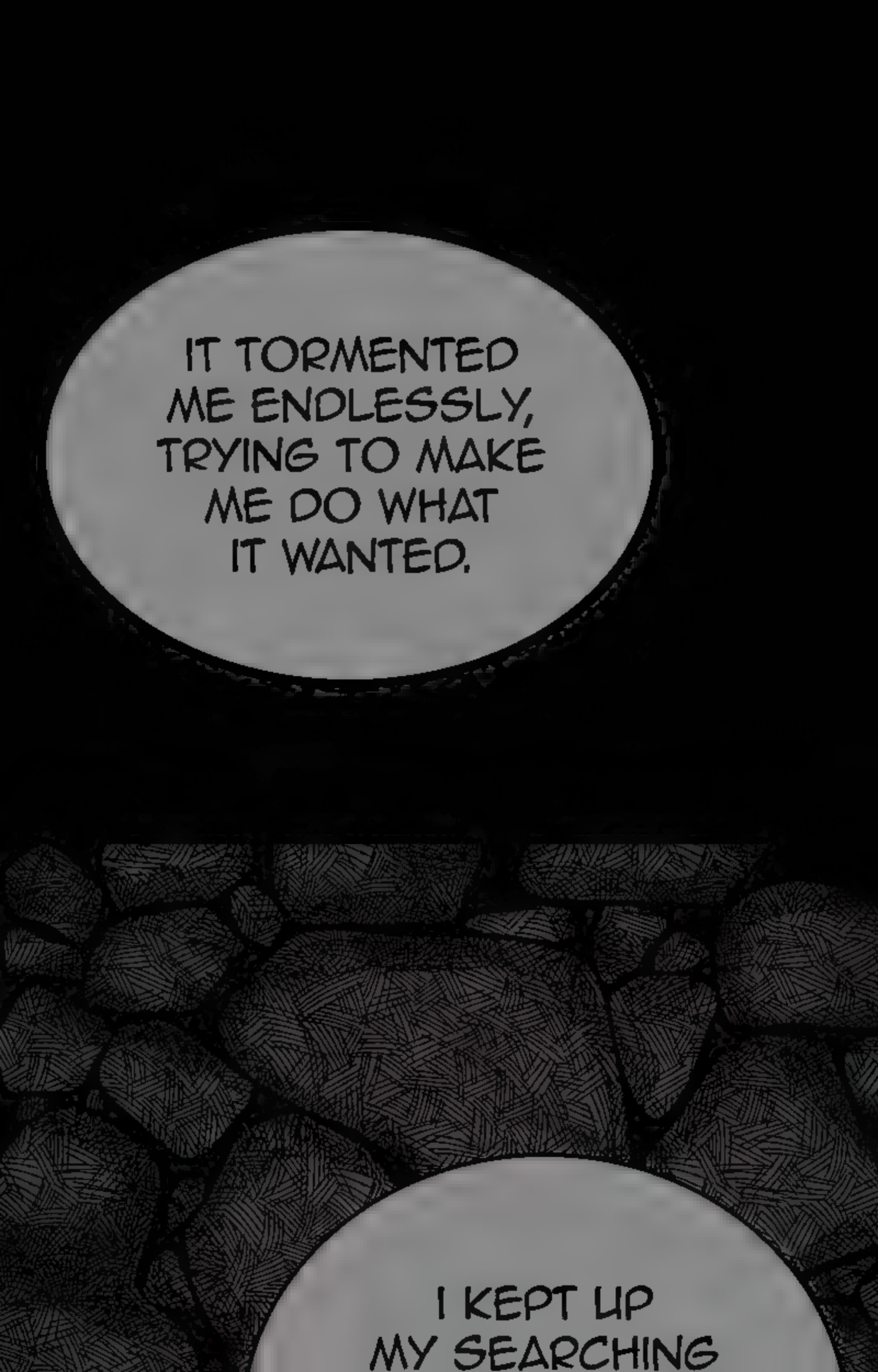
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT, BUT I KNOW IT, OR SOMETHING LEFT OF IT, IS STILL HERE.

I HAVE THESE NIGHTMARES ABOUT IT.

AND *THEY* TELL ME ABOUT IT.

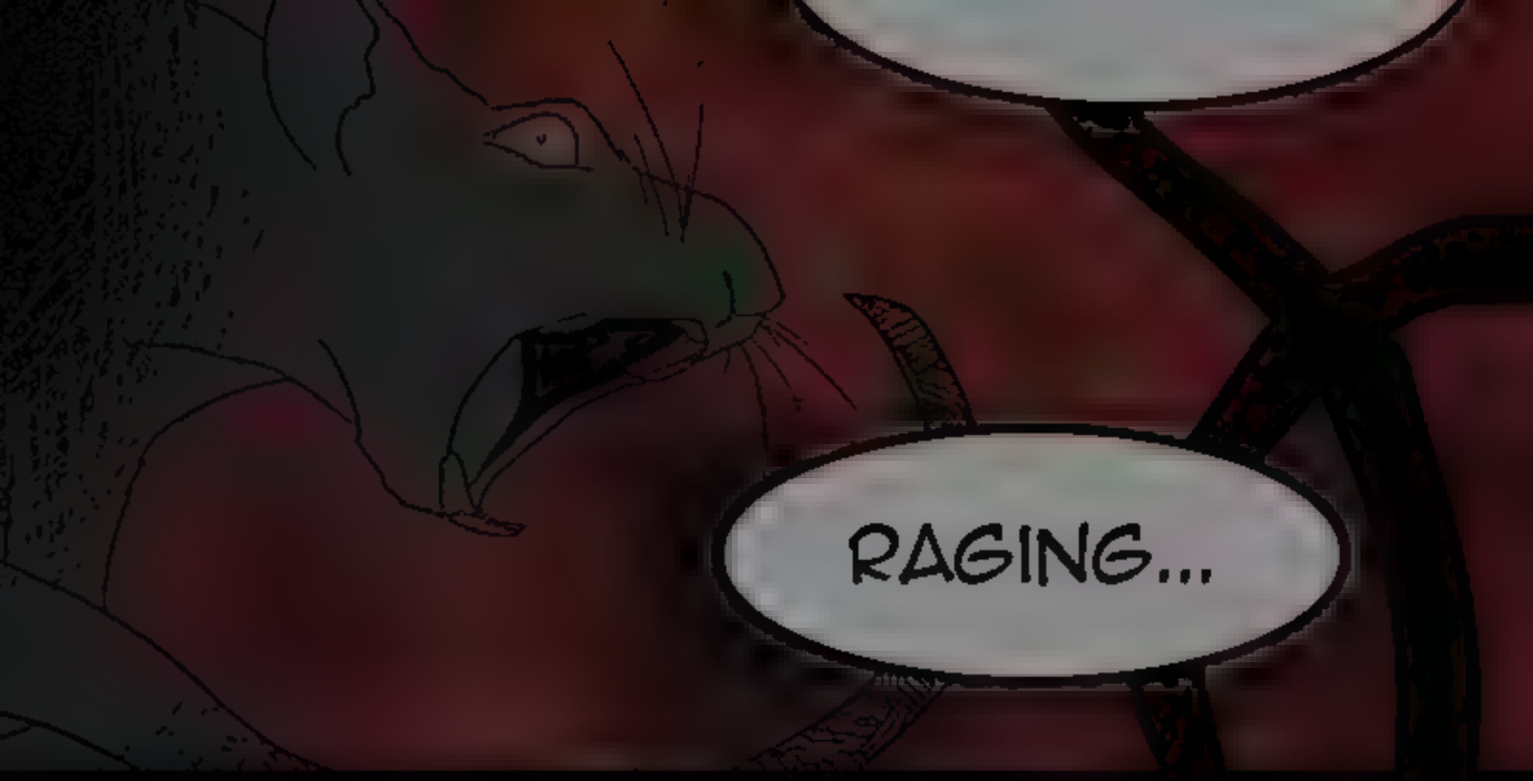
TELL ME THEY NEED HELP.




IT TORMENTED ME ENDLESSLY, TRYING TO MAKE ME DO WHAT IT WANTED.
I KEPT UP MY SEARCHING

AND DISCOVERED IT WAS DOWN IN THE DARK, UNDER THE TOWN.
BUT WHAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT IT'S NOT ONE SINGLE THING.

IT'S LIKE...
LIKE A RAT'S NEST.
CHURNING...




MANY BEINGS, ALL TIED TOGETHER. AN AMALGAMATION OF FRUSTRATION AND HATE.

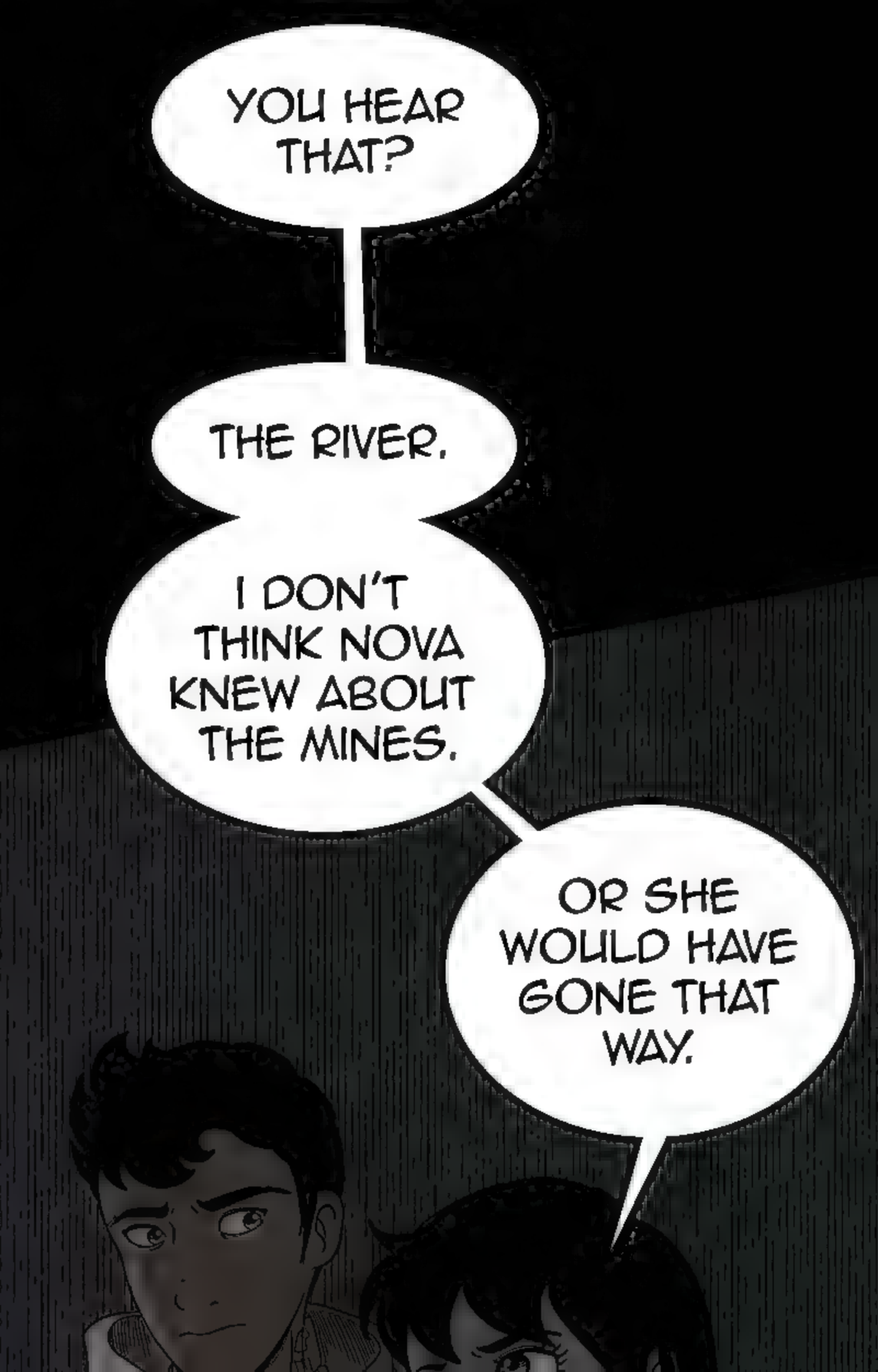
RECENTLY, IT OFFERED ME A DEAL.

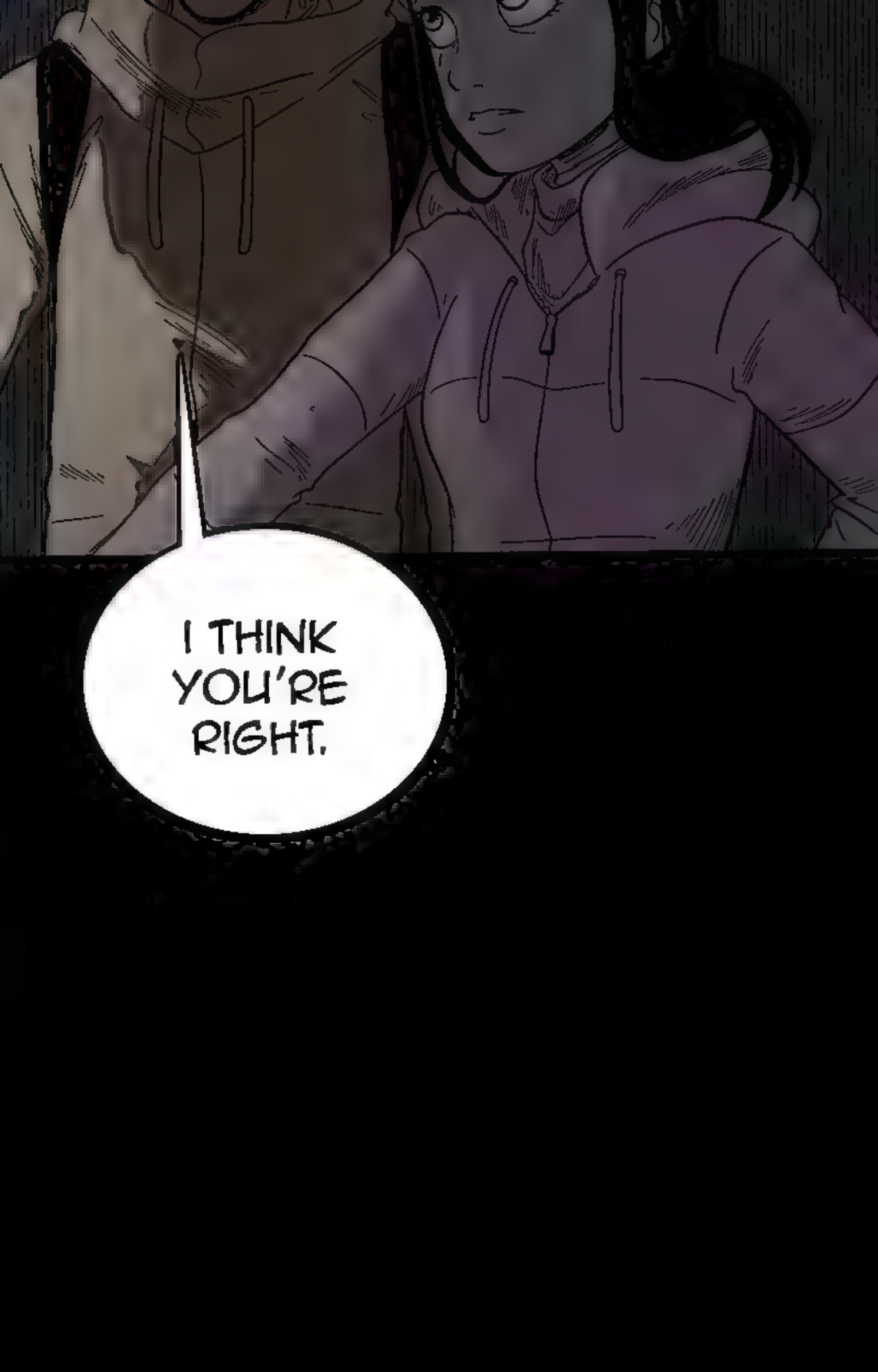
BECOME ITS "HELPER" AND FIX IT.

IF I DO, THE REST OF THE TOWN WILL BE SPARED.

I'M TOO TIRED TO FIGHT IT ANYMORE.
SO I'M GOING DOWN TO THE RIVER, TO TRY AND FIND A WAY IN...

click


YOU HEAR THAT?
THE RIVER.
I DON'T THINK NOVA KNEW ABOUT THE MINES.
OR SHE WOULD HAVE GONE THAT WAY.

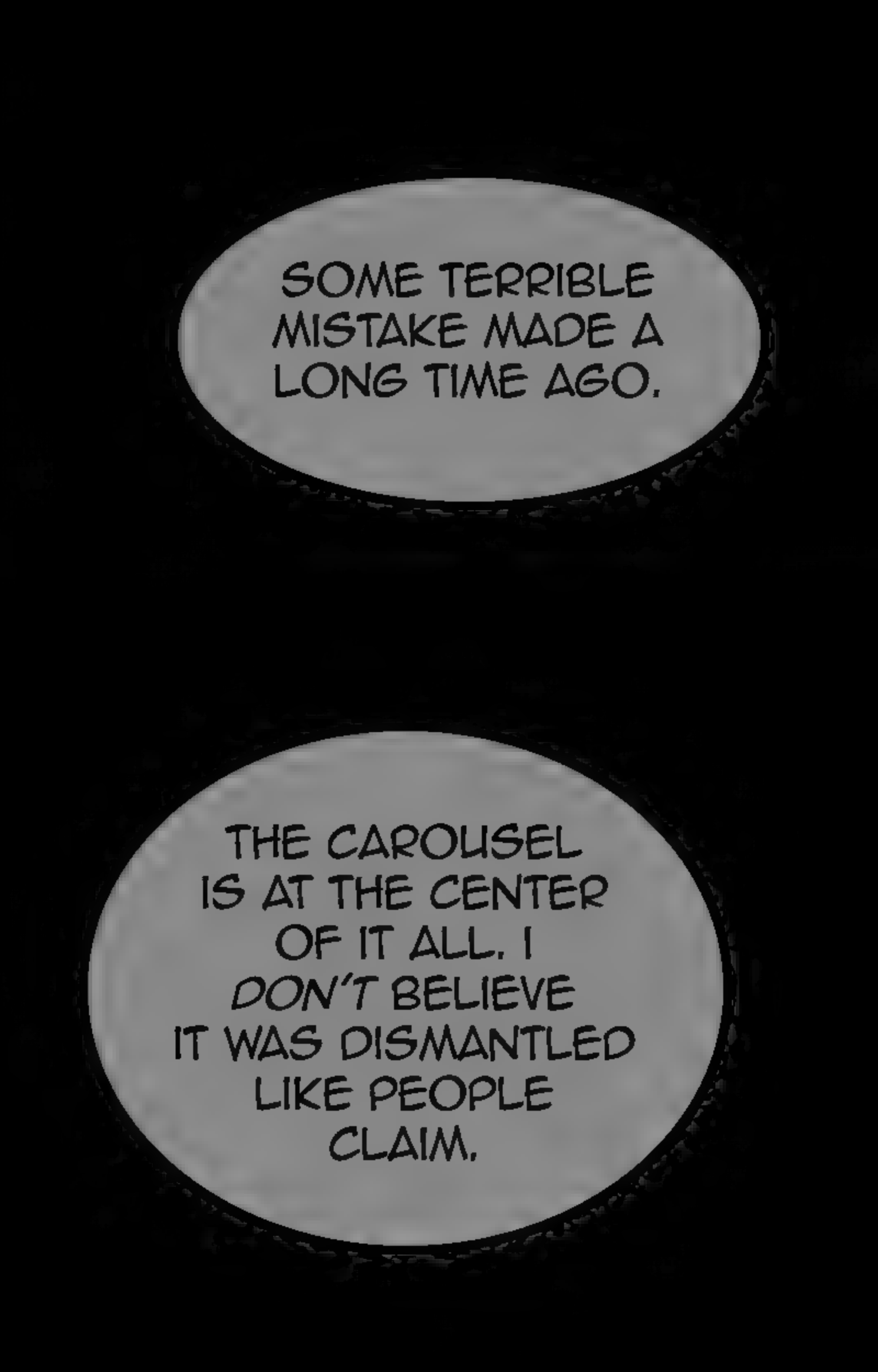

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

CLICK

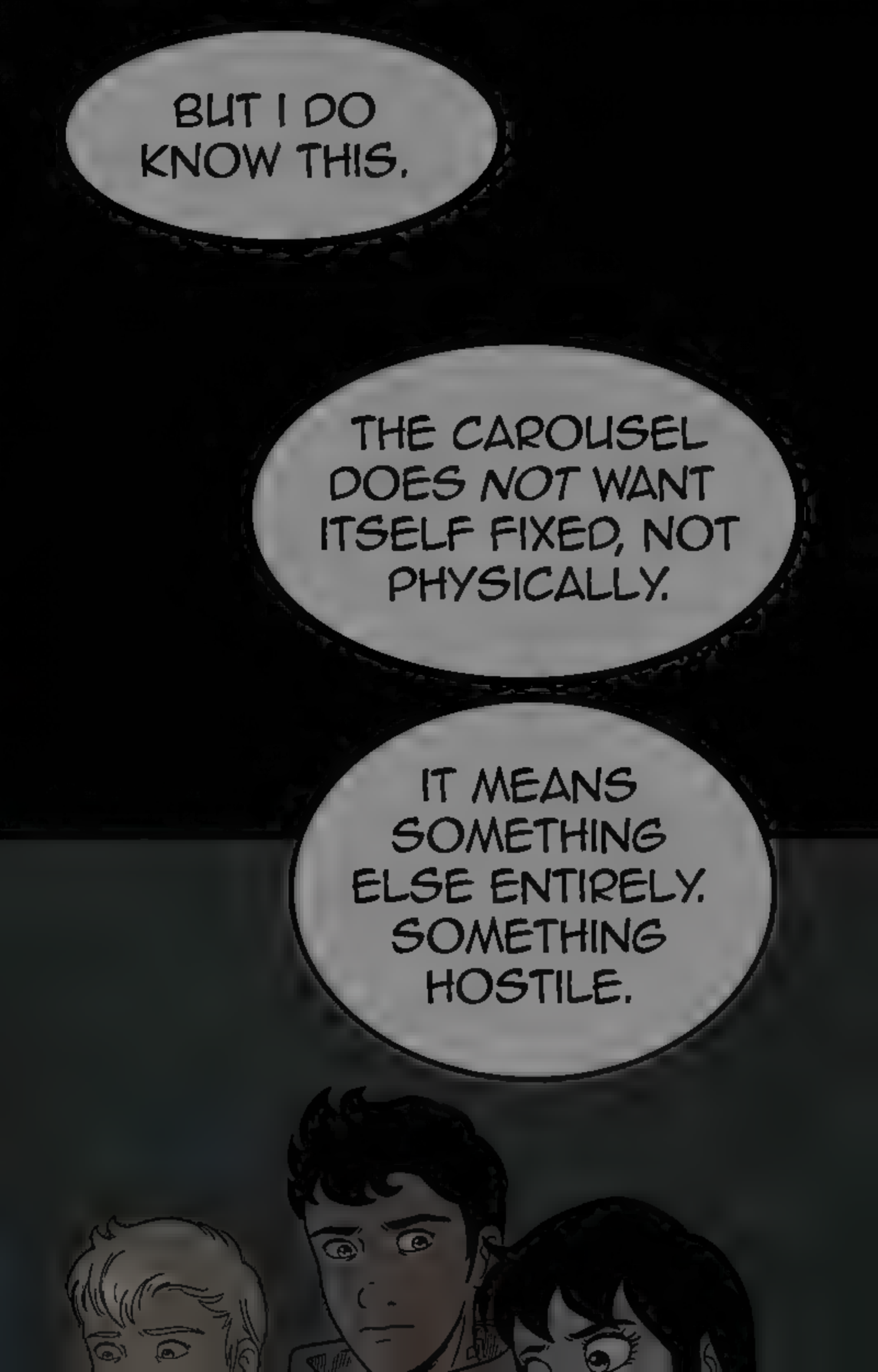
...BUT I'M LEAVING MY RESEARCH BEHIND.

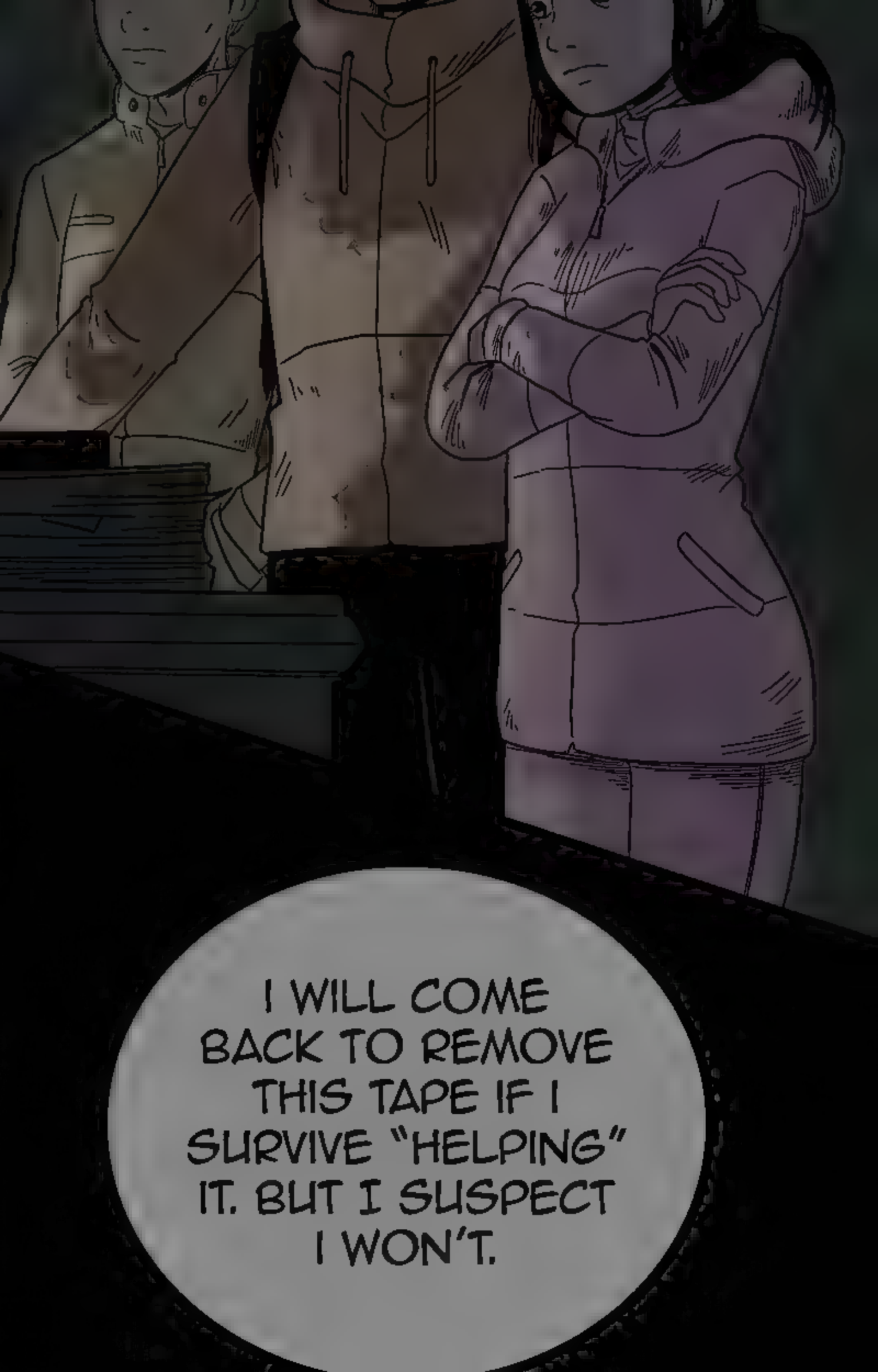
I DID THE BEST I COULD, LEAVING BOXES OF STUFF IN PLACES AROUND TOWN.

WITH ALL MY SEARCHING, I NOW BELIEVE THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TOWN'S PAST.


SOME TERRIBLE MISTAKE MADE A LONG TIME AGO.
THE CAROUSEL IS AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL. I *DON'T* BELIEVE IT WAS DISMANTLED LIKE PEOPLE CLAIM.

SOME...VIOLENCE OCCURED BECAUSE OF IT. I WISH I KNEW MORE.


BUT I DO KNOW THIS.
THE CAROUSEL DOES *NOT* WANT ITSELF FIXED, NOT PHYSICALLY.
IT MEANS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY. SOMETHING HOSTILE.


I WILL COME BACK TO REMOVE THIS TAPE IF I SURVIVE "HELPING" IT. BUT I SUSPECT I WON'T.

IF YOU FIND THIS PLACE...IF IT, *THEY* TARGET YOU AS WELL...

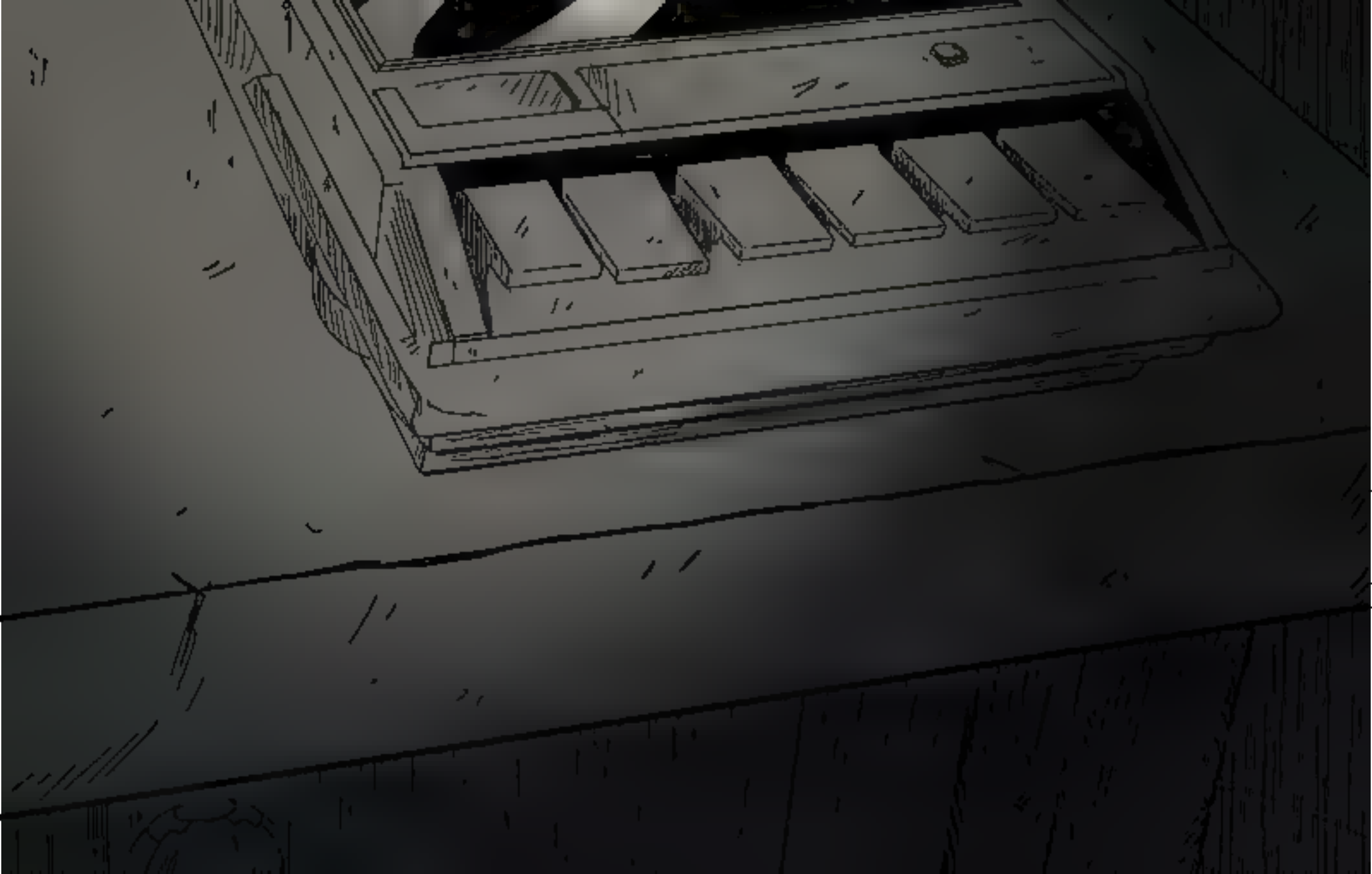
*DO NOT HELP IT.*

IF IT KILLS ME, IT WILL KILL YOU TOO.

IF IT TARGETS YOU, IT WILL TRY TO GET YOU ALONE.

IT WILL DRIVE AWAY PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT, AT ANY COST.

AND IT WILL TRY TO INSTILL IN YOU A SENSE OF HEAVY GUILT.
THAT'S HOW IT MANIPULATES.



I KNOW WHAT YOU FEEL LIKE RIGHT NOW.

BUT DONT GIVE UP, AND DON'T GIVE IN.

TAKE WHAT I'VE LEARNED AND GO FURTHER.

THERE ARE ANSWERS OUT THERE. I PROMISE.

GOOD LUCK.
CLICK

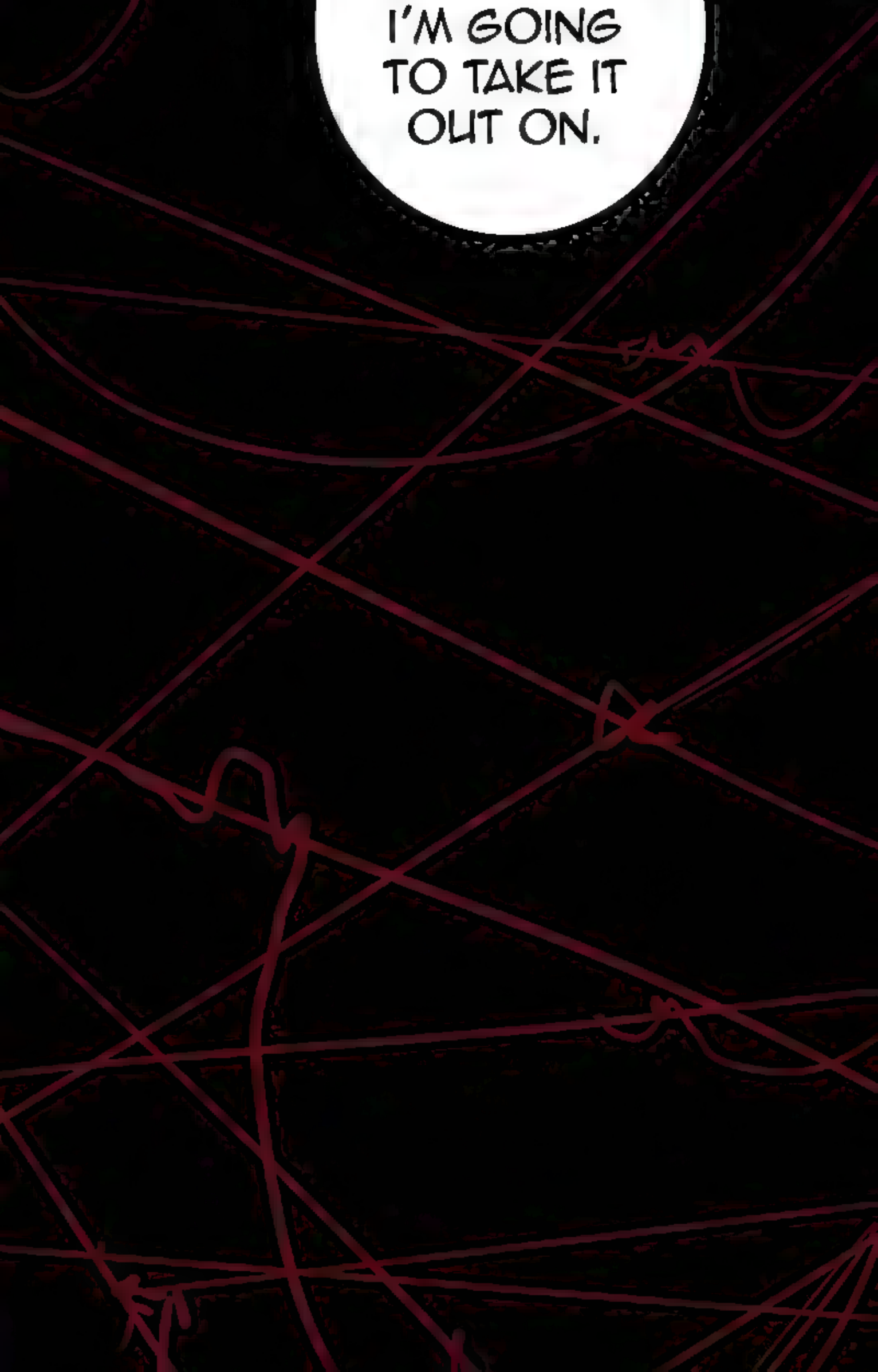
WELL...

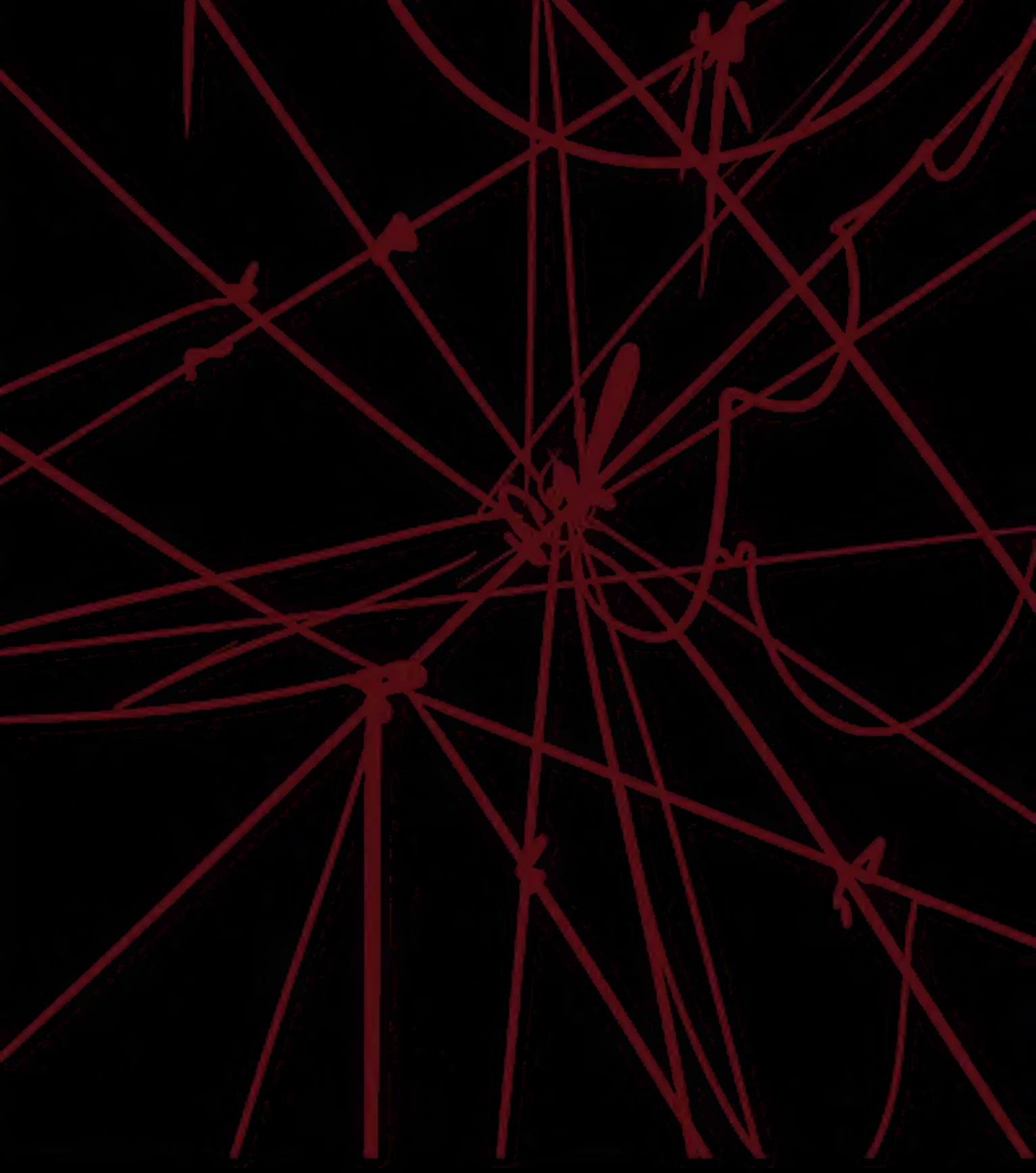
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BOYS...

BUT I JUST FOUND
ONE MORE THING
TO BE MAD ABOUT.

BEYOND MAD,
REALLY.

AND I
KNOW WHO


I'M GOING TO TAKE IT OUT ON.



PLEASE ENJOY THIS FANART
SENT IN BY KALANA, WHOSE

SMALL CHILD DREW IT FOR THEM DURING A TENSE PUZZLE-SOLVING BOUT IN THE ALTERNATE REALITY GAME.

GO TEAM JAIRLYME AND FRAKY!